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OPINION METER

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LOCAL



Navy Seahawk helicopters and Ospreys land on Tinian's North Field.

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WORLD



President Obama calls Nelson Mandela "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

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LIFE & STYLE



MTVU names Pope Francis and Lorde as its man and woman of the year.

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GOP chair Villagomez resigns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Joaquin "Jack" P. Villagomez resigned as chairman of the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association on Friday for "health reasons."

Villagomez was elected GOP chairman on July 31. He stepped down on Dec. 6.

It was under his leadership—a short four months—that the CNMI's political landscape changed with the merger of the Republican Party and the Covenant Party and the selection of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as the GOP's gubernatorial team in 2014.

Villagomez replaced former governor Benigno R. Fitial as Republican Party chairman.

Angel A. Demapan, spokesman for the Inos-Torres Campaign, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday Villagomez's resignation for "personal health reasons."

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Proposed higher late charge, reconnection fees postponed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s proposal to increase penalties for late payments has been removed from the list of items that will be decided upon by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission later this month.

Another CUC proposal to increase

its non-rate revenue charges for its electric division has also been temporarily shelved.

These came about after the CPUC consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services, disagreed with the initial proposal filed by CUC to revise its non-rate revenue charges for all its utilities.

Based on the joint agreement CUC
See **PROPOSED** on **Page 4**



Overwhelming support for judge nominee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI goes a step closer to once again having a woman in the Superior Court after a show of overwhelming support for Teresa Kim-Tenorio's nomination as associate judge during a Senate panel's well-attended public hearing on her appointment.

» **Kim-Tenorio responds to 'experience' matter**

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

Kim-Tenorio, legal counsel for Gov. Eloy S. Inos

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From left, Sen. Jack Borja (Ind-Tinian), Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, his wife Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who is the governor's current legal counsel and nominee for Superior Court associate judge, and the latter's father, Yong Chan Kim, moments after a Senate committee wrapped up a public hearing on Kim-Tenorio's nomination yesterday on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

15 remedial courses at NMC yield low completion rates

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has disclosed that many students under the institution's remedial courses do not successfully finish their requirements.

ish their requirements.

In a presentation to the Board of Regents, Jackie Che, director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, said that, of the many remedial programs offered at the college, 15 yield

very low completion rates of just between 60 percent and 70 percent.

"By looking at the data, at NMC there are 15 courses that fall below the 70 percent rate," said Che.

Course completion rate refers to the percentage of students who continue attending remedial classes until completing the requirement.

Che cited NMC's five-year course completion rates from

school year 2008-2009 onwards.

Che described the results as lower than previous years and indicate that many students under the remedial programs are not succeeding as a result of their withdrawal from the class or not passing the requirement.

College documents indicate that in the five-year period, the course completion rate for "Beginning English", for instance, was at 61 percent. This is based on data from fall 2008 through spring 2012. For "Reading & Vocabulary Development II", the completion rate in five years is at 65 percent.

Other remedial courses that yielded almost similar completion rates include "Writing Grammar Study II," "Reading & Vocabulary Development III," "Writing Grammar Study III," "English Composition I," "Elementary Japanese I," "Folklore & Mythology," "Marine Biology," "Fundamentals of Mathematics: Basic Mathematics,"

"Pre-Algebra," "Beginning Algebra," and "Intro to Music."

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, during Friday's board meeting, said that most students who fall in developmental courses such as Math and English end up unsuccessful in their taken courses.

"In the past, if your course falls under the 70 percent rate... that's in the 'red-flag' and students are not succeeding. And if you will examine the data, you can see that most students fall under developmental courses such as Math and English have 70 percent completion rates [only]," Hart said.

She emphasized the importance of working closely with the Public School System to find ways on how to help high school students prepare for college.

The data presented to the board, Hart said, only shows the impact of remedial education in the success of every college students. If only 60 to 70 percent of students are passing the remedial courses, then there's a need to initiate developmental works, she added.

"When I look at the data, I am very concerned. We may think we improve in some areas, but we need to do a better job with PSS [to address this issue]," Hart said, adding that preparation for college must begin even at the junior high level.

For board regent Juan T. Lizama, the next question is how to convey the message and what actions need to be taken.

"The irony is that these courses are remedial in nature...and yet students are not doing well," said Lizama.

Students placed under remedial education are mostly those who fail NMC's placement tests. These are students who are deemed unprepared for college courses. Students pay tuition and can use financial aid for remedial courses, but they do not receive college credit.

USAF drop gifts over Micronesia

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Santa once again got some help from the Air Force to bring Christmas to remote islands in Micronesia this year as Operation Christmas Drop 2013 kicked off on Andersen Air Force Base Tuesday.

The 62-year tradition brings food, water, school supplies, and toys to the islanders in Micronesia and is a collaborative effort between the Air Force, the University of Guam, and the local community.

Back on the ground after the first flight Tuesday, Flight Commander Colonel Robert Blagg called the mission a success.

"It was fantastic today," Colonel Blagg told PNC.

NMC exec: Sacrifices key to achieving balanced budget

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The chief financial officer of the Northern Marianas College, Tracy Guerrero, says the institution was successful in achieving a balanced budget last fiscal year as a result of some sacrifices initiated by the management during the 12-month period.

In her oral presentation to the Board of Regents on Friday, Guerrero disclosed that the institution recorded a "little surplus" last fiscal year that the college intends to use for its anticipated accreditation-related expenses this fiscal year.

Based on the unaudited data presented to the board, NMC posted a total surplus of \$193,819. This was achieved after recording a total of \$17.484 million in expenses against the college's consolidated revenues amounting to \$17.678 million.

Last fiscal year, NMC received \$4.74 million in local appropriation; generated \$4.120 million in tuition and fees; federal aids and grants amounting to \$8.882 million; and \$201,400 from a special account.

Guerrero's report indicates a balance of \$194,708 under the college tuition and fees account and another \$41,809 from the

special account. All figures presented are unaudited.

"I think we did a pretty good job in coming out with a balanced budget," she said.

Because the college expects a lower revenue this fiscal year, the little surplus recorded in fiscal year 2013 will help meet costs associated with accreditation.

Guerrero said the unaudited figures have already been transmitted to the college's external auditor.

In response to questions of board members, Guerrero said that part of the surplus is possibly from the "savings" gen-

erated from some vacant positions that remain unfilled to date. Also a factor in achieving the balanced budget, she said, is the deferment of classroom improvements and salary adjustments for college personnel.

Board vice chair Elaine Orilla expressed optimism of another year of "clean audit" for NMC from its external auditor.

Board chair Frank Rabauliman and NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart separately lauded the hard work demonstrated by the CFO and her team as well as college employees in coming up with a balanced budget.

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Inos signs two Rota appropriation bills with reservations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed “with reservations” yesterday two Rota local bills appropriating a total of \$152,000 in poker license fees for programs and services. One of them was line-item vetoed for lack of justification that appropriation of public funds to two private schools are for a “public purpose.”

The bills also appropriate a huge amount even as poker machines have yet to be renewed and license fee collected.

The governor signed Rep. Teresita Santos’ (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-34, Draft 1 into Rota Local Law 18-9 appropriating \$50,000 in poker license fees on Rota for patients and scholarship.

Inos disapproved two items in the bill, appropriating \$1,000 each to Rota Grace Academy and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, both for “operations and school supplies.”

“It appropriates public funds to private schools without any details as to the exact purpose for which it is appropriated. Ab-

sent justification that it is for a public purpose, I am unable to approve these provisions,” Inos said in his message to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

The governor also urges the local delegation to revisit the matter and re-appropriate the funds if the public purpose test is met.

Inos also urged the delegation to note that while he approves the measure, only two machines have been renewed thus far, for a total collection of \$12,000. The bill appropriates \$50,000 in poker machine license fee collections.

“As such, payments of \$450 can be made to each patient only up to the total amount of the collection until such time that other machines are renewed,” the governor said.

The bill seeks to appropriate \$37,500 to the Department of Finance, for the purpose of providing a monthly subsistence allowance of up to \$450

a month for Rota residents undergoing dialysis treatment and treatment for terminal illnesses outside Rota.

The remaining \$10,000 is for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund pursuant to Rota Local Law 17-2.



Inos

‘Discrepancy’

The governor also signed “with reservations” Santos’ House Local Bill 18-36, Draft 1, into Rota Local Law 18-10. These were because of a discrepancy in figures.

The measure appropriates \$102,000 from poker license fees on Rota for payment of retroactive salaries and the Rota mayor’s office for programs and

operations.

“There is a discrepancy between what the retroactive distribution schedule shows and this measure. The amount to be distributed, \$94,069.12, is less than the appropriated amount of \$96,915.26, which leaves a balance of unapplied revenue of \$2,846.14,” Inos said.

The breakdown of the variation is as follows:

The distribution schedule for retroactive payment beginning with \$79.34 up to \$1,000 total \$20,362.24, versus \$22,062.41 as shown on the bill, for a difference of \$1,700.17.

The governor said the distribution schedule for retroactive payment starting with

\$1,001 up to \$2,112.50 total \$37,922.16, versus \$39,065.13 as shown in the bill. This has a difference of \$1,142.97.

The distribution schedule for retroactive payment beginning with \$2,305.42 up to \$2,905.42 total \$35,784.72, versus \$35,787.72 as shown on the bill, for a \$3 difference.

“I urge the delegation to work closely with Rota’s Office of Personnel Management for any future retroactive compensation payments

to ensure accuracy. Furthermore, as with Rota Local Law 18-9, monies cannot be disbursed until machines are renewed and license fees collected,” the governor added.

Two sisters of alleged victim say she is capable of lying

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two sisters of the alleged victim testified for Alfredo E. Reyes, a 51-year-old man who is on jury trial for allegedly sexually abusing the then 16-year-old girl thrice in 2009.

The alleged victim’s sisters took the witness stand yesterday afternoon as the defense’s first witnesses, soon after the prosecution rested its case.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato is counsel for Reyes.

The defense is expected to call more witnesses when the trial resumes this morning, Thursday.

The sisters basically testified that they believe that the alleged victim is capable of lying and that she was indeed lying about the allegations against Reyes.

After the alleged victim com-

pleted her testimony yesterday, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda called the step-mother of the alleged victim to the witness stand. After her testimony, Cepeda rested the government’s case.

Sato then moved for a judgment of acquittal. He also moved to dismiss three counts of child abuse.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the motion for judgment of acquittal, but granted the motion to dismiss three counts of child abuse.

The remaining charges that the jury will decide on are three counts of sexual assault of a minor in the first degree and three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Camacho will decide on the misdemeanor charges of three counts of assault and battery, and three other charges.

CUC sets power outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be performing maintenance on the power distribution system servicing CUC water wells in the Obyan area today, Dec. 12. This will require interruptions in the Kiya 1 circuit.

A power interruption from 9:30am through 9:45am is scheduled to isolate the project site. Areas that will be affected at the AARF, Hawaiian Rock, GPPC Quarry, GPPC field office (south side of the airport runway), Naf-tan Road, Dela Concepcion Dr., Obyan Beach Dr., Santa Margarita Pl., Ladder Beach Ln., and CUC water wells.

However, CUC water wells

(OB-3 to OB-12), GPPC field office (south of the airport runway), and AARF will remain offline.

At 12:30pm, the power will be interrupted once again to complete the repairs and re-energize all affected areas.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, CUC asks all travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)

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Hamo gets 5 yrs. for role in burglary, rock throwing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a five-year prison term on Fiden Hamo, who pleaded guilty for involvement in a conspiracy to steal copper wires and other items from a warehouse in Afetnas and for throwing rocks at a house.

Hamo will serve the five years without the possibility of parole.

After completing his sentence, he will be placed on five years probation. If he violates

any condition of his probation, he will be incarcerated again and will be made to serve in part or in whole the five years.

For his rock throwing case, Hamo was sentenced to one year in prison, which shall run concurrently with the sentence in the burglary and theft case.

Hamo was ordered to pay a \$700 fine, \$25 court fee, and \$500 probation fee. He was ordered to pay restitution to the two victims in the two cases in an amount to be determined later, and perform 300 hours of community service.

Hamo pleaded guilty to burglary in the first case and crimi-

nal mischief in the second case as part of a plea deal.

Camacho said that Hamo entered into a deal with the prosecutors to serve only five to seven years in prison in exchange for testifying against his co-defendants, Sonny Babauta and Petrus Anastacio.

In addition, Camacho said, Hamo has cooperated and provided substantial information to CNMI and federal law enforcement that has led to the arrest of other criminals not already known.

The judge said that if he rejects the prosecutor's recommendation of five years in pris-

on, the court may undermine the police and prosecutors' ability to close some cases or open new cases against other criminals not already known.

"The ability to make a deal is an essential tool used by the police and prosecutors to obtain information about murder cases, major drug dealers, criminal conspiracies, corrupt public officials and law enforcement," Camacho said.

The judge said he finds the prosecutor's recommendation to be reasonable and based on a larger plan.

A Superior Court jury has already found Hamo's co-defendant, Sonny Babauta, guilty. He will be sentenced on Jan. 8, 2014.

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, in his written testimony, said he had the privilege of working with Kim-Tenorio in her capacity as a trustee for the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, as well as in her capacity as legal counsel to the governor.

"As a trustee, she carries out her duties with the utmost professionalism, attention to detail, and diligence. She always carefully reviews and considers all matters brought to her attention," Castro said.

He added that the nominee always exhibits respect, fairness, and legal acumen in her dealings with the Judiciary.

Besides the chief justice, the attorney general, Tenorio, and Alepuyo, the others who testified in support of Kim-Tenorio's nominations were the governor's special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, former Public Lands secretary and former speaker Oscar M. Babauta, Public Safety Commissioner James DeLeon Guerrero, acting Labor secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, attorney Mike Ernest, and attorney Janet King.

Kim-Tenorio, a juris doctorate graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, received her certification under the CNMI Bar in May 2004 and the Michigan Bar in 2002.

Besides her work in the Executive Branch, Kim-Tenorio previously worked as an attorney for the Law Office of G. Anthony Long and as legal counsel to the CNMI House of Representatives.

During her time as legal counsel to the lieutenant governor, Kim-Tenorio also served as a hearing officer for administrative cases brought before the CNMI Department of Labor.

Kim-Tenorio is married to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, who was present at the public hearing yesterday, along with the nominee's parents, Yong Chan Kim and Jin Soon Kim, other relatives, colleagues, and supporters.

The NMI Bar Association gave Kim-Tenorio a rating of 3 for experience; 3.63 for integrity; 3.48 for professional competence; 3.41 for judicial temperament; and 3.81 for service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice.

JUDGE

From Page 1

and when he was still lieutenant governor, said she was "overwhelmed" with the show of support for her nomination.

"I really did not expect all these people that showed up today to testify on my behalf. I'm very honored and grateful. I'm glad this is over. I pray for favorable voting at the confirmation hearing, so that I can move forward," Kim-Tenorio told reporters right after the Senate Committee on Appointments and Government Investigations wrapped up its public hearing on her nomination.

In a question-and-answer with senators, Kim-Tenorio said she has years of experience in court both at the local and federal level.

Besides court experience, also important is the understanding of the rule of law and procedures to dispense with a fair and just decision, she said.

"For a judge to serve well, not only he needs to have courtroom experience but [also] needs to understand the rule of law and he needs to understand the procedures. And believe me when you're in the courtroom, the attorneys do help you a lot because they do the research with [their] arguments and they expect you to understand the law and to dispense with a decision fairly," she told senators.

'A test'

Besides citing the nominee's education and experience background, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio also spoke of Kim-Tenorio's fluency in languages besides English and Chamorro, which he said could be a "cost-savings" to the court. The nominee is also fluent in Korean.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo, who was teary-eyed during her testimony, said Kim-Tenorio is even more local than many in the community.

Some senators also asked and addressed Kim-Tenorio in Chamorro, saying in jest it was a "test."

In her remarks before the Senate panel, Kim-Tenorio didn't dwell on how she will be fair and whether she meets the

constitutional requirements to fill the position.

"I was nominated because I meet the constitutional requirements and being fair goes without saying. It is expected. It is part of justice. As a member of the legal community, I am aware of the importance of the judicial system and its role in society," she told the committee.

Headed for confirmation

EAGI Committee acting chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the panel was "not given any reason to recommend to the full Senate a rejection of the nomination of Ms. Tenorio."

"The oral and written testimony provided to us were all in favor of the nominee, and our own reviews show the nominee is qualified for the job," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taimanao said the EAGI Committee would need days to complete its public hearings, deliberations and reports on four nominees, including that of Kim-Tenorio and Labor secretary-nominee Edith DeLeon Guerrero.

Given the work that still needs to be done, a Senate session is not likely to be held this Friday. Taimanao said it could be between Dec. 17 and Dec. 20.

Besides Taimanao, the other EAGI panel members present were Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Sen. Jack Borja (Ind-Tinian).

Kim-Tenorio needs only at least five affirmative votes in the nine-member Senate to get confirmed.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who presented Kim-Tenorio to the Senate panel on behalf of the governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, said the people have an opportunity once again to diversify the perspectives of justice.

"We have an opportunity to fill a void left by the appointment of then Associate Judge Ramona Manglona to the U.S. District Court—the presence, views, and insights of a woman on the bench. As such, Governor Inos grasped the opportunity to pay proper tribute to the emerging role of women in society," Demapan said.

He told senators that the nominee coming before them "is one that is ready to serve."

"Along with her educational credentials, she has experience in private practice, in the legislative branch, and in the Executive Branch. For more than three decades, she lived among us. She evolved alongside our then fledgling Commonwealth. Grew up with our people. Embraced our cultures and traditions. And speaks our language, sometimes even better than some of us," Demapan said, adding that Kim-Tenorio has become his mentor, a trusted colleague in the administration, and a family friend.

When asked later if she would recommend a replacement as the governor's legal counsel if she gets confirmed as associate judge, Kim-Tenorio said she will, "should he ask."

"But ultimately, of course, we know that's his decision," the nominee said.

'Perspectives'

Kim-Tenorio, in her prepared remarks before senators, said that having practiced as an attorney in the private sector, then in the Legislature, and finally in the Executive branch, she would bring to the Judiciary many different perspectives and experiences to make a well-rounded, fair, and impartial judge.

"In other words, I have seen and scrutinized the coin from different angles. I learned fairness and impartiality in many different arenas and in many different ways. I will protect our Constitution and ensure justice is served," she said.

She touched on two aspects: what she will bring to the Judiciary as a woman and as a member of this community.

"With so much pride and honor, I have been a part of this community for 36 of the 39 years of my life. This is my home, the only home I know. It is my children's home, and the home of my future grandchildren. I have an interest in

seeing that our Commonwealth continues flourishing, continues being the safe place that it is, and preserves the rich culture I've embraced that has become my own. I can help do that as a judge. I promise I will work diligently. And I promise to do so, because I believe in the system and I love the law," she added.

Hamo and co-defendants Jeffrey Lizama and Matthias Salisban all signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty.

Camacho already sentenced Lizama and Salisban to the full maximum jail term of 10 years in prison.

According to the prosecution, on Dec. 18 and 19, 2012, Hamo twice entered the Han Nam warehouse, formerly known

as the Onu Moda Factory, with Babauta, Lizama, and Salisban. They stole copper wires, power tools, and other items.

In the other case, on July 1, 2013, on Saipan, Hamo went to the house of Jeffrey Javier in Afetnas and started a verbal altercation with the latter. He then threw three rocks at Javier, almost hitting the victim. One rock hit the victim's vehicle, causing damage.

PROPOSED

From Page 1

and Georgetown submitted to the commission, some proposed changes to CUC's electric non-rate revenue charges will be deferred until the spring 2014 regulatory session.

Items deferred include, among other things, the proposal to increase late charges from 1 percent of the past due amount to 10 percent of the past due. Another is the new after-hours connection fee of \$600 and a proposed increase in the investigation fee for the electric division from \$60 to \$210 as well the imposition of a \$220 disconnection fee at the pole and a \$200 reconnection fee at the pole.

CPUC will also defer a decision on the proposal to impose a \$690 fee for renewable energy installation inspection; a \$125 fee for renewable energy annual inspection; and a proposed new fee of \$550 for unauthorized connection.

It was disclosed that CUC initially proposed 20 non-rate revenue charges for its electric utility division but Georgetown expressed a concern over 10 of these charges. The two later agreed to hold the 10 items in abeyance pending further review and consideration at the April 2014 commission meeting.

This leaves 10 other non-rate revenue charges that will be taken up by the commission. In the electric division, recom-

mended for CPUC action is the increase in "non-sufficient funds" fee from \$25 to \$40; increase in the new service fee for meter change out from \$60 to \$95; and an inspection fee of \$90. Also included for action are the increase in meter test fee for single phase from \$30 to \$75; meter test fee for three phase, \$110; and disconnection notice fee of \$15.

Other items on the CPUC agenda are the request to maintain the \$60 fee for reconnection at meter and a reduction in the disconnection fee at meter from \$60 to \$45.

Georgetown recommended that the new fees can be implemented upon the CPUC's approval and CUC's filing of proposed descriptions of each of the electric non-rate revenue charges.

CUC and Georgetown also agreed on a limited number of non-rate revenue service fees for the water and wastewater divisions, which include the following: lab service charges, \$60; increased wastewater tipping fees from \$25 to \$80; imposition of \$100 as fee for backflow device inspection; FOG installation inspection fee, \$170; FOG biannual inspection fee, \$60; and FOG remediation fee, \$110.

These fees will not be paid by everyone, only those customers who use a particular service. CUC earlier said that it is proposing these non-rate fees in order to keep the regular rates as low as possible.

GOP

From Page 1

In the interim, first vice president Marianne Teregeyo becomes the acting president until a new president is named.

"Pursuant to the party rules, the GOP board of directors is charged with the selection of a new president and they are expected to fill this post in the coming days," Demapan said.

He said Inos, the GOP's standard bearer, "wishes to express his appreciation to Mr. Villagomez for his leadership during his stint as president."

"Mr. Villagomez was actively involved in the unification of members of the Covenant Party into the GOP," Demapan added.

Meanwhile, former Covenant Party campaign manager and former speaker Oscar M. Babauta separately said the Covenant Party will file its formal notice of dissolution this week.

Inos was the titular head of the Covenant Party before it merged with the Republican Party. It was under Villagomez's leadership that the GOP invited Inos and other Covenant Party members to rejoin the GOP.

Besides Inos, the other potential gubernatorial candidate for the November 2014 race is former speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider. However, Hofschneider has yet to find an individual who is willing to become his running mate.

The Democratic Party, meanwhile, has yet to announce a gubernatorial candidate.

With the merger of two parties, the Republican Party is once again a formidable political party following its dismal showing in the 2012 race under Fitial.

Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. The House impeached him for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty and felony.

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Life in Motion

CPUC to seek higher budget for its operations

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The three-member Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission decided Tuesday to ask for a higher budget for its operation while seeking to remove the cap on the fee it can assess a regulated entity.

Commission chair Joseph C. Guerrero, members Dave Guerrero, and Oscar Quitugua adopted the two resolutions in Tuesday's meeting and will

transmit them to the Legislature for action.

The commission derives its operations budget from the fees it assesses the entities it regulates. These entities include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp, IT&E, and other entities that it may soon regulate: GTA Services LLC and Docomo Pacific.

Guerrero, during Tuesday's deliberation, disclosed that based on the Budget Act of 2014, the commission was appropriated a continuing budget

of \$213,253 for the entire fiscal year. However, the commission's projection indicates that this amount is not enough to fully carry out the function and mission of the regulating body, such as its need for members' training.

The resolution adopted Tuesday demonstrates the need to amend the commission's budget, for legislative approval. The body seeks a \$316,000 budget for this fiscal year's operation.

The chairman described this

proposed amount as the normal cost of operating a utilities commission. He said this is way lower than what other utilities' commissions receive in other jurisdictions such as in the U.S. Virgin Islands, which has over \$1 million budget for its commission.

Prior to the resolution's adoption, commission chair Guerrero assured his colleagues that the commission has funds to accommodate the budget increase.

Also Tuesday, the regulating

body adopted a separate resolution asking the Legislature to repeal Public Law 15-35, which set a ceiling of \$135,000 on the fee the commission can assess against any entity it regulates.

Saipan Tribune learned that the commission is regulating only one entity at the moment, CUC.

"There is a cap on how much we can assess a regulated entity and it seems that this create unfair advantage for entities with smaller revenues compared to

CUC," according to the chairman, adding that this is also in contrast to the provisions of the statute that created the commission.

The chairman said that entities who may want to question the CPUC are allowed to appeal because there is a "check and balance" in the current commission's operation. Once approved by the Legislature, the commission will go back to session to approve with finality the "draft" budget for fiscal year 2014.

Siberia hosts Russian cultural day for 30 kids

Some 30 children took part in Cultural Experience Day" on Siberia Restaurant's "Russian Sunday at the second floor of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some 30 children took part in the "Russian Cultural Experience Day" hosted by Siberia Restaurant last Sunday.

ABC Store building in Garapan.

The two-hour event had the participants learning about Russian culture, including its his-

tory and some of the country's traditional dances and games.

Among the traditional Russian dances they learned were

the Prisyadka, Khorovod, and the Bear Dance.

After they were taught the steps, participants took part

in games. The group was divided into two teams with the challenge of copying the movements of the preceding dancing pair.

Participants also learned about Russian traditional costumes like the Kokoshnik (headdress), Sarafan (dress), and Rubakha (shirt).

Next up was a non-Russian traditional game, which involved wrapping a person with toilet paper ala-mummy.

The penultimate event was a lesson on the Russian tea ceremony where participants got to sample samovar tea that was served with traditional Russian desserts like Bilini and Pirozhiki (Russian apple pie). Siberia Restaurant staff also served Berry Morse (crushed berry juice) to participants.

Each of the 30 or so participants was also presented with a traditional Russian gift, called Матрёшка.

Siberia Restaurant is owned by Emerald City LLC. It is located on the second floor of the ABC Building across DFS Galleria, along Beach Road. It is open from 10am to 11pm daily. For reservations and for more information, call 233-7733. *(Mark Rabago)*

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP14-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME

"TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH-GUMA HUSTISIAJIMW AL A WEE WE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 AT 10:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MR. MICHAEL VILLACRUSIS, SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR AT (670) 236-9800 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI JUDICIARY. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI JUDICIARY AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSER.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/ JUAN DIEGO TENORIO
Budget and Finance Director
Judiciary Procurement Officer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 2013-CDA-05-RFP

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKET FEASIBILITY STUDY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Friday, December 27th, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of November 21st, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. **Rezoning Application #2013-1045.** Saipan Surfrider LLC is requesting to rezone lots 012 H 20; 008 H 32; and 008 H 29 from "Village Commercial" to "Tourist Resort" for hotel and commercial space development. These areas are located north of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and east of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.
2. **Amendment to Conditional Use Permit #2011-6433.** Tasi Homes Development Co., LLC is requesting to amend its approved site development plan to reflect interior re-designing of floor plans, re-structuring of parking stalls, and closure of one entrance/exit driveway fronting Beach Road. This area is located next to the Sugar Dock and northwest of Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business

1. Election of 2014 Zoning Board Officers
2. Office operations report
3. Discussion on proposed Adult Business Park/ Adult Business Overlay zoning districts

E. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogunmoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 2013-CDA-06-RFP

Submission Date: January 6, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKETING PLAN FOR CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 14-OPM-026

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: December 31, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 14-DPW/BSC-033

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: January 08, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUILDING SAFETY CODE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 14-OPM-027

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: December 31, 2013
TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS: IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

No prison term for CUC staff who installed illegal water connection

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee who was convicted of installing an illegal water connection to his house has dodged prison time, with his sentence converted to community service.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Paul King Manglona on Tuesday to two years in prison, all suspended except for three months and 10 days. Naraja, however, converted the three months and 10 days prison term to 2,150 hours of community service.

Manglona, 39, was required as his community service, to research and write a report about Down's syndrome, to be

submitted to court on or before March 3, 2014.

He was ordered to make presentation about what Down syndrome program Oregon has offered and whether a similar program can be implemented in the CNMI.

Manglona was placed on probation for three years and required to pay a \$300 probation fee, \$100 fine, and \$25 court costs.

Naraja expressed interest about Down syndrome after Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, counsel for Manglona, told court that Manglona's 14-year-old stepson is afflicted with the syndrome.

Hartig said that Manglona is credited with having a major impact on the improvement of his stepson's ability to progress in spite of his affliction.

Manglona used to stay in Oregon.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Manglona with theft of utility services, theft of service, and criminal mischief. Manglona pleaded guilty last month to theft of utility services as part of a plea deal.

According to the indictment, Manglona, while employed by CUC, tampered with his water meter, installed an illegal water connection, and stole \$527.24 in water services from August

2012 to March 2013.

At a sentencing hearing on Tuesday, assistant attorney general James B. McAllister recommended the full maximum sentence of two years imprisonment without the possibility of parole, early release, or similar programs.

McAllister said this is necessary to deter Manglona and other CUC employees and customers from committing similar crimes in the future.

"Such sentence is in line with the longstanding legislative intent of protecting the 'health,

safety, and welfare' of the community," McAllister said.

He also pointed out that Manglona, in June 2011, was convicted of obstructing justice and was sentenced to three months in prison, all suspended except for two days, for disobedience and assault of a police officer.

McAllister said that Manglona has abused his position of employment and the trust of the people of the Commonwealth for his own benefit.

Hartig, counsel for Manglona, said any sentence in excess of a suspended imposition of sen-

tence "would be unjustifiable, counterproductive and unjust."

Hartig said the victim, CUC, has been made whole by getting restitution and being given a sincere apology that was accepted.

He said the defendant has been punished by his employer by getting leave without pay for 30 days and by the court now by being a convicted felon.

Hartig said CUC wants Manglona to continue working and that in spite of this case, Manglona continues to work for CUC. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Obamacare topic in tomorrow's SHRM meeting

The controversial Affordable Care Act and its impact in the CNMI will be discussed during the Society for Human Resources Management-NMI Chapter's monthly meeting tomorrow, Dec. 13, at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Guest speakers who will be talking about how ACA will affect the islands' healthcare industry are Commerce Secretary and CNMI Insurance Commissioner Sixto Igismar, consumer advocacy officer Caitlyn Neisis-Mocano of the Department of Commerce's Consumer Assistance Program, and FHP Clinic and

Take Care Insurance Co. clinic manager/service manager Nora Mae Sablan.

ACA, otherwise known as Obamacare, is a federal statute that aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of healthcare for individuals and the government.

Mufi Hannemann, the former mayor of Honolulu, Hawaii, and founder and chairman of the Pacific Century Fellows, will also grace SHRM's December meeting.

Hannemann is expected to

talk about the newly launched Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows Program. The program is patterned after the national White House Fellows program with the intent of developing and bringing together strong community leaders to strategically tackle some of today's most pressing matters.

SHRM's presentation during its December meeting includes morning refreshments and lunch. The cost is \$30 for SHRM members and \$35 for non-members. Contact Malou Jardinero at 234-7171 local 1518 or email her at malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com for reservations. *(Mark Rabago)*



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ATTENTION SAIPAN ICE & WATER CUSTOMERS

In remembrance of our beloved leader



†IRENE BORJA

Saipan Ice & Water will be CLOSED on Friday, December 13, 2013 from 8:00 AM – 12NOON to attend the Mass of Christian Burial at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

**Deliveries will resume at 1:00PM on Friday, December 13th.
Please call in advance for all your water needs.
For orders call: 322-6130/9455/9848**



SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.

Concorde, ex-alien workers appeal court's ruling on \$1.2M FICA taxes

The defunct Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. and its affiliated companies' numerous former foreign workers are appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit a federal court order requiring them to return \$1.2 million in Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.

Attorney Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Concorde, and attorney Colin M. Thompson, counsel for the foreign workers, filed their notice of appeal on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The appeal seeks to reverse Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's final order dated Oct. 15, 2013, and her Aug. 20, 2013, order that granted the U.S. government's motion for judgment on the pleadings.

Pixley and Thompson said this appeal is filed within 60 days of the court's Oct. 15 entry of the final judgment.

The lawyers said they previously appealed the Aug. 20 order but it was determined that this

was not a final order and their premature appeal was voluntarily dismissed on Oct. 3.

The court issued the final order after U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division trial attorney Landon Yost asked for an entry of judgment in favor of the U.S. government and against Concorde in the sum of \$1,181,265.71 plus interest from Dec. 28, 2009.

With the court having ruled against Concorde's arguments why FICA taxes did not apply to its employees, Yost said it is now clear that Concorde's claim for refund lacked a legal basis and that the refund given to Concorde was a mistake and should be returned to the IRS.

Court records showed that Concorde filed Forms 941 "Employer's Quarterly Tax Returns," for the quarters ending March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006, Sept. 30, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2006. Concorde paid the amount due for the FICA taxes for those quarters.

Concorde then filed a Form

843 "Claim for Refund," requesting a refund for those quarters, asserting that its temporary contract workers in the CNMI were not subject to FICA taxes and that it therefore erroneously paid payroll taxes for those employees.

On Dec. 28, 2009, IRS issued a refund to Concorde and its employees in the amount of \$1,181,265.71.

In July 2011, Concorde and over 4,000 Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies sued the U.S. government to recover FICA taxes that were erroneously paid to the U.S. for tax years 2004 to 2007.

They asserted that the imposition of FICA tax liability on employees and collected from plaintiffs should be refunded.

In 2010, 12 other former garment factories and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino also sued the U.S. government to recover FICA taxes that were allegedly erroneously paid.

On Dec. 17, 2011, the U.S. government filed a counterclaim

for the recovery of this refund, arguing that Concorde's claim was without legal basis and should not have been allowed.

In its answer to the counterclaim, Concorde asserted that the counterclaim was barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

In the U.S. government's motion for entry of judgment, Yost stated that the court has now ruled that FICA taxes did apply to Concorde's employees for the tax periods at issue, effectively holding that Concorde's claim for refund lacks legal merit.

Yost said the counterclaim was timely since a suit for recovery of an erroneous refund must be filed within two years after the making of such a refund (or within five years if the refund was induced by fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact).

Concorde has insisted that the U.S. government's counterclaim for the recovery of \$1.2 million in FICA taxes that the IRS refunded in 2009 was barred by the applicable statute of limitations. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Carlos Madrid featured in humanities radio show

Spanish historian Dr. Carlos Madrid will be the featured guest on Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program.

Madrid, a faculty member of the University of Guam and the Micronesian Area Research Center, specializes in the histories of the Marianas, Micronesia, and the Philippines.

His book, *Beyond Distances*, published in 2006, chronicles the story of hundreds of Spanish political prisoners who were exiled to Guam, Saipan,



Madrid

and Rota in the 1870s.

Madrid will talk about the Spanish administration's unsuccessful efforts to resettle residents of Rota to Guam in the 19th century and information relating to the Chamorro folk hero, Juan De Malas.

He is currently collecting archival and oral historical infor-

mation on both of these topics.

Your Humanities Half-Hour, hosted by Catherine R. Perry, airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99.

It features interviews with scholars, researchers, teachers, and community leaders on a wide range of humanities topics. Be sure to tune in! **(PR)**

93,715 sign debit transactions for typhoon relief

» Additional \$9,371.50 contributed, to total \$19,371.50 from Bank of Guam

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam customers raised additional funds for the Philippine typhoon relief effort by sign-

ing their debit card transactions from Nov. 22 to 29, 2013.

Bank of Guam had agreed to contribute \$0.10 per signed

transaction for the period to Typhoon Haiyan relief. A total of 93,715 debit card transactions were signed during the

eight-day period, yielding the \$9,371.50 figure.

When added to the Bank of Guam's initial contribution of \$10,000, a total of \$19,371.50 was contributed for Typhoon Haiyan relief work. **(BOG)**



TASI TOURS DONATION

Teachers and students of Green Meadow School join their school president, Mila Merjilla, in accepting a \$1,000 donation from Tasi Tours, presented by the company's general managers, Takashi Mimura and David Igitol. The Green Meadow management, staff, students, and parents express their sincere gratitude to Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. for their generous donation. Thank you very much, Tasi Tours, and more power to you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 12, 2005

Being safe haven will not burden NMI

The Commonwealth would bear no burden from becoming a safe haven for Vietnamese victims of human trafficking, according to the Attorney General's Office and a non-profit organization that presented the concept to the CNMI. The AGO and the United States International Mission Saipan held a joint press conference Friday afternoon to answer the concerns raised by Sen. Pete Reyes regarding the proposed safe haven regulations and their possible fiscal and social impact on the CNMI. Attorney General Pamela S. Brown maintained that the proposed regulations only provide the framework to be used when the AGO negotiates a memorandum of agreement with a non-profit organization interested in establishing a safe haven in the CNMI.

JATA: Packaged tours to Marianas selling slow

Package tours to Guam and Saipan for the last holiday are selling slowly, according to a Japan-based travel agents group. Japan Association of Travel Agents issued results of a recent survey showing that, as of mid-October, reservations made by Japanese tourists planning to visit the Marianas in December 2005 have reached only 76.3 percent of the December 2004 figures. JATA did not provide more specific figures.

December 12, 2006

CUC sets complaints hearings

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will conduct this week administrative hearings on the complaints filed by those who had their power disconnected. Attorney Stephanie Flores, counsel for some disgruntled CUC customers, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the utility agency's new administrative hearing officer, Linn H. Asper, will hold the proceedings. Flores said that during a status conference last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson stated that now that CUC has a hearing officer, anybody whose power had been disconnected should be given priority for an administrative hearing. Flores said CUC counsel Edward Manibusan just transferred to her the documents related to those seven individuals who were still disputing their disconnections. "We will be having administrative hearings."

4 firms apply for defined contribution RFP

The NMI Retirement Fund has received four proposals from four investment consultants to handle the third party administration of the government's defined contribution plan. Two of them were hand-delivered while the other two were submitted online. Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said those four met the deadline, which was Thursday last week, or a week after the Nov. 30 RFP closing. It is not known yet if the online submissions would actually be accepted since the agency required that proposals must show a postmark date or be hand-delivered. "We wanted a hard copy of the proposals," said Aguon.

December 12, 2007

MVA projects 460K tourists in 2008

The Marianas Visitors Authority is projecting a 20-percent increase in tourist arrivals for 2008 due to the continued growth of its Korean market and an expected rebound of the islands' No. 1 market, Japan. Speaking before a crowd of around 200 during the tourism agency's general membership meeting yesterday at the Saipan World Resort, MVA chair Jerry Tan said the CNMI is anticipated to welcome 468,286 tourists next year. "The good news is we are hoping, praying, and working hard and next year we will see a 20-percent increase in tourist arrivals," he said.

Marianas Trench nominated to New 7 Wonders of Nature

The Marianas Trench has recently been nominated as one of the Seven Wonders of Nature by Internet users. It joins dozens of other natural sites around the world vying for the honor. The non-profit foundation New7Wonders is behind this effort to identify the world's seven most important natural sites. New7Wonders only recently starting taking nominations and the goal is to have the Seven Wonders identified by Summer 2010. The contest will progress through several stages in which different natural sites will be identified and voted on. The first stage in the process for a site to be nominated, which has already been completed for the Marianas Trench, is for somebody to go online and suggest a nominee. This can be done at the New7Wonders website at www.new7wonders.com.

MVA approves \$1M for destination enhancement

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors unanimously approved on Tuesday a \$1 million budget for destination enhancement projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

During its board meeting, the board agreed to quadruple its initially proposed budget for the year from \$250,000 to \$1 million, based on anticipated revenue.

"While most of our budget remains committed for marketing in our source markets, now that revenue has increased, the board wants to invest more funding toward developing our product," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Based on projected revenue collections this fiscal year, the board feels \$1 million is a reasonable and necessary commitment, and we are excited for the opportunities this funding will open up."

Following the increase in hotel occupancy tax in April this year, the MVA had reactivated its Destination Enhancement

Ad Hoc Committee, which has already completed several projects: the restoration of the Sugar King train, railing and monument repairs and construction of a pavilion at Banzai Cliff, railing repairs at Bird Island Lookout, restoration of the canons and tanks at Last Command Post, Aguigan Point/Tinian Goat Island, and the ongoing Christmas in the Marianas celebration.

The following initial projects have been identified for Saipan: restoration of the World War II tank at Quarter Master Rd. intersection, signage at Banzai Cliff; repairs to railings, the lookout point, signs and restrooms at Grotto; repairs to railings and signs at Suicide Cliff and clearing of the Banaderu Trail, repairs to railings and construction of a new guard rail at Ladder Beach, construction of a stage and lamp post repairs at Paseo de Marianas, and pressure washing and painting of pavilions and benches at Last Command Post.

On Tinian, the initial projects will include: installation of railings and rail posts at Taga Beach, installation of railings at Carolinas Heights Lookout, road and parking lot repairs at Yumiyoshi Shrine, installation of new railings at Suicide Cliff, and repair of the MVA plant nursery. On Rota, the initial projects will include new directional signs, interpretative signs at two historic train sites, and rehabilitation of the Japanese-era sugar train.

The MVA board made an inspection tour of major tourist sites last month. Members of the Destination Enhancement Committee will also make as-



Construction of a pavilion at Banzai Cliff was completed last week as part of ongoing destination enhancement projects by the Marianas Visitors Authority. The MVA has committed \$1M for destination enhancement in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota this fiscal year.

sessments visit to Tinian and Rota to work with the community to identify additional needs.

"We have to deliver. Money spent here not only stays here, it brings a better product to all of our visitors across all markets," said Destination Enhancement Committee chair Chris Nelson. "We look forward to responsibly using these funds to make the islands cleaner, safer, and more beautiful for our visitors and local residents alike."

The \$1-million funding was approved as \$500,000 for the first half of the fiscal year, with an additional \$500,000 approved for the second half of the year dependent upon available funding.

The board also approved additional funding for the Flower Island Project, "a long term space design project to rejuvenate and refresh the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota brand image in Japan to that of a beautiful beach resort destination full of green and trees and colorful flowers."

The project has also received the commitment of members of the Japan Marianas Tourism Club to promote and sell packages to the Northern Marianas based on this new branding.

US give FSM \$8.7M in Compact aid payments

In November, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling \$8.8 million.

These payments were for Compact Sector Grants: education, \$3,770,000; health, \$3,200,000; infrastructure, \$613,587; public sector capacity building, \$509,000; private sector development, \$322,000; environment, \$258,000; and enhanced reporting and accountability, \$204,000.

This amount is provided to the states of the FSM as follows: Chuuk, \$3,617,000; Kosrae, \$1,196,028; Pohnpei, \$2,350,475; and Yap, \$1,713,084.

Technical assistance grant

The Pohnpei Public Auditor's Office also received a technical assistance grant of \$78,600 from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs for the development of a Compliance Investigation Unit.

Sophia Pretrick, who provided the same service to the Yap Public Auditor's Office through a prior OIA technical assistance grant, has returned to Pohnpei and will take the lead in establishing the Pohnpei Unit.

She will train staff to become compliance investigators and to provide fraud awareness education to the general public, and also to establish collaborative working relationships with other state agencies. (U.S. Embassy)



Pretrick

Woman gets 3-day sentence for hitting boyfriend

A woman was slapped yesterday with a three-day prison term for hitting her boyfriend thrice on the head with a frying pan during an argument over cell phone usage.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Kathleen L. Beri to one year in prison, all suspended except for three days, for as-

sault and battery.

Beri, 21, was given credit for the two days of time served. She will start serving the remaining one day on Dec. 20.

Beri is required to pay up to \$200 for medical costs incurred by her boyfriend at the Commonwealth Health Center.

She was also required to

undergo anger management counseling and write a letter of apology to the victim.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Beri with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. She pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. She was represented by attorney Tiberius Mocanu.

Beri got into a physical scuffle with her boyfriend about his cell phone use on Sept. 17, 2013, on Saipan. After the boyfriend punched her face causing a slight swelling on her right temple, she hit him over the head with a frying pan three times. The boyfriend sustained no visible injuries. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Will Ukraine resist the bully?

Vladimir Putin regularly buffs up his strongman image by stripping off his shirt for photographers while he hunts, casts for fish and rides horses. You have to wonder: Does he strip off his shirt each time he picks up the phone to bully the president of Ukraine?

Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich, stunned European Union negotiators last month when he abruptly rejected a trade and integration deal with the EU just days before it was to be finalized. Yanukovich did so a few weeks after he flew to a military base near Moscow for a secret meeting with Russian President Putin, who fiercely opposes Ukraine's tilt toward Europe.

The obvious implication: Putin put on the hard squeeze and Yanukovich wilted.

That has prompted angry protests from Ukrainian citizens and opposition leaders. Yanukovich has answered with riot police, leading to violent clashes in the streets of Kiev, Ukraine's capital. Demonstrators have been beaten.

Putin has leverage here. Ukraine is heavily in debt to Moscow and depends on it for natural gas and trade. When Putin banned imports of Ukrainian chocolate, candy and cake this summer on a flimsy pretext, those products piled up at the border. Putin's priority is to force his neighbors, especially the large and populous Ukraine, into a proposed new customs union under Russia's control.

Yanukovich has much to gain in the short term from a deal with Putin, including cheaper gas, financial relief and lucrative business contracts for his cronies, who have benefited in the past from collaboration with Moscow. A temporary boost for Ukraine's failing economy would help Yanukovich's 2015 re-election campaign. Ukraine is in a fragile state: mired in debt, short of hard currency. Putin could clobber it by imposing trade sanctions and crimping the gas supply.

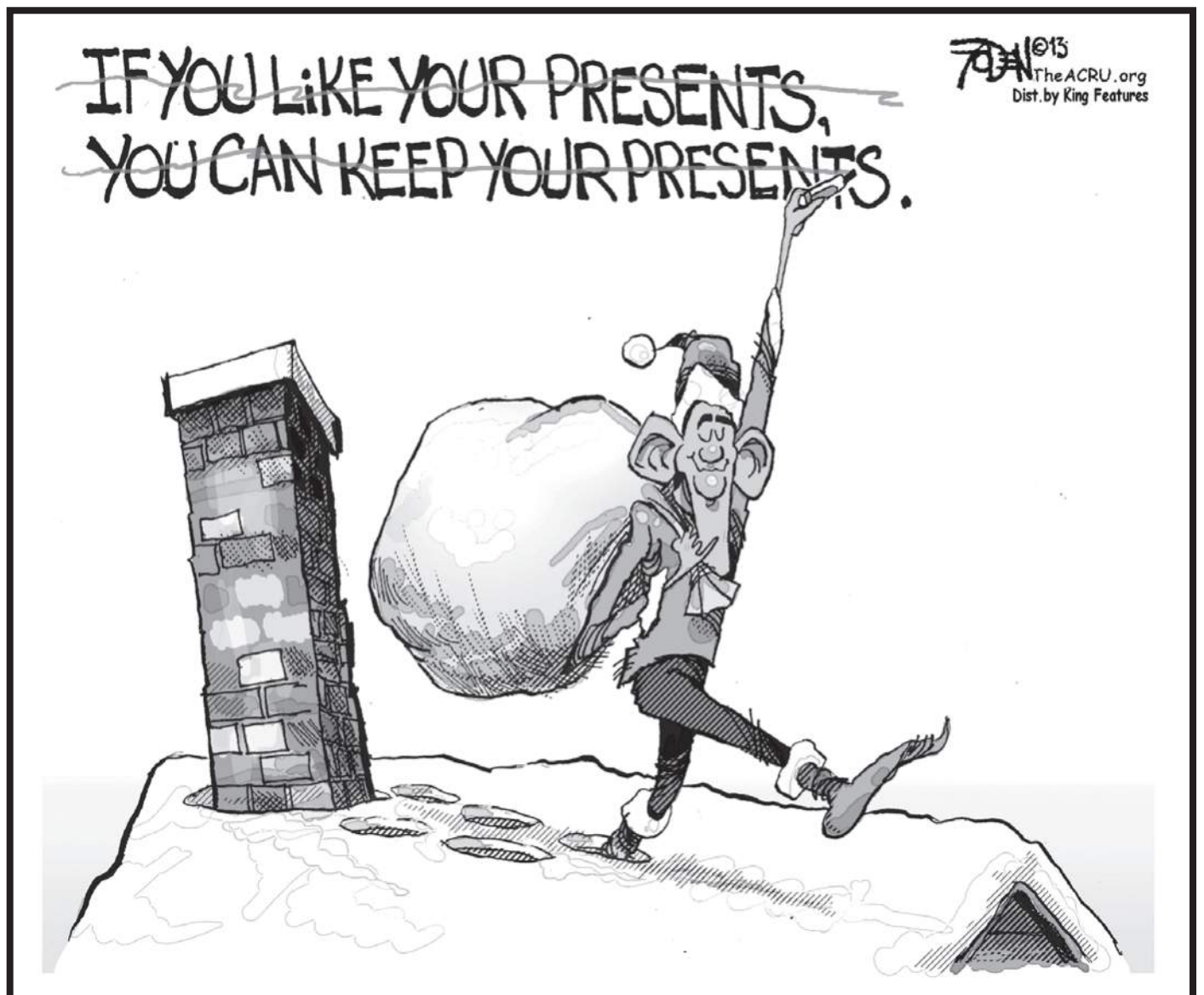
The EU offers short-term pain and long-term gain. The deal Ukraine almost signed would have brought fiscal discipline and political accountability—which Ukraine desperately needs—and the opportunity to integrate with the world's largest trading union. Given its agricultural resources, Ukraine could be an economic star: Arable land makes up more than half the country, which is traditionally known as the breadbasket of Europe. Much like the American Midwest—and precious few other places in the world—the soil is rich, dark, deep and expansive.

Politics in Ukraine is rough-and-tumble: Yanukovich's top rival, former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, an architect of Kiev's pro-Democracy Orange Revolution in 2004, is jailed on charges that she abused her power. Her allies, and many outside of Ukraine, believe the charges are politically motivated.

Ukraine, by geography and economic sphere, is vulnerable to Putin's threats. The EU path promises some difficulty, but ultimately a strong foundation for prosperity. This is a critical decision. The U.S. and its European allies should step up with more support for Ukraine.

If Yanukovich puts his people first, he'll tell Putin to take a hike—clothing optional.

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Madiba welcomes the world

It is too early to sing of the wise men—Gaspar (Sheba), Melchor (Arabia), and Balthazar (Egypt)—who visited the infant child of Bethlehem in the Christmas story of the season, but we could not avoid the thought as I learned that Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Jimmy Carter (US), Cameron, Brown, Blair, and John Majors (UK) are descending on South Africa to attend Mandela's scheduled memorial service.

The first batch were dignitaries paying homage to a messianic royal (Matthew and Luke gospels are not meant to be history), while the second batch consisted of three ex-presidents and a sitting top executive of the only superpower of the world, the United States of America, joined by the four living prime ministers of Britain, and a host of world leaders and dignitaries around the world confident enough not to have a local coup in their absence!

Of the U.S. in the second group, they came to pay tribute to an ex-felon who was considered a terrorist until 2008, who spent 27 years behind bars but managed to keep a country from civil war, and let the world know through his being that the value of one's skin color is not even that deep compared to compassion and grace.

A methodological side trip: the triune mindset is an occidental Hegelian heritage of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. The yin-yang of the *taiji* focuses on the center pivot point holding the balance of the whole, while the *feng shui*'s east-west-north-south axis is made whole by the fifth area, the *wu fang*, the center. The essence of oriental balancing center and harmonizing middle counts a lot. Madiba straddled the gamut of both methods, plus.

In the history of South Africa that came into being through the imperial designs of Europe, it brought India and China into the picture, mixed into the Bantu underpinnings, the influences of Arabic North Africa and the Middle East, the dominance of the Teutonic-Slavic mindset, and the rapacious fingers of corporate capitalism of London-New York-Tokyo-Singapore. We have the various strands that came into play in the vaunted Madiba unifying "magic."

Massive changes wracked the previous century. It went through two upheavals unprecedented in scope and intensity in the history of humankind. Violent as the two World Wars were, the more intense disturbance is in the depth of human consciousness itself. Its radicalness matches only the vastness of its scope. For the human race is challenged to invent anew what it means to be human. This defines the revolutionary character of our time.

Nelson Mandela is preeminently one of our revolutionaries whose personal existence wrestled with the civilizational convulsion occurring. Taking the tensions of a material-centered economy and the political strife of a multiracial constituency, he resolved in his being the crisis of human identity and vocation, and transformed

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.



the revolutionary bent on destruction to the authentic old sage of the bush that only had simple grace and common compassion to share with fellow human beings. He showed in his being a new fabric of humanness that began a work in progress now operating in many lives around the world. We number with the window washers among the servants in that entourage.

Many in the world are overwhelmed to the point of collective trauma, a failure of nerve, expressed in such outbursts as recently seen in Kiev and Bangkok, and not too long ago, in Syria. Hoping to retain the ennui of the familiar, many hang on to the illusory comfort of more sophisticated arsenals in home closets, or more statutes to bar entry of the stranger into the town's square. Many engage in frantic activism pitting groups against each other for the therapy of little gains and momentary reliefs.

But the malaise of our time is not revolution itself; it is the fear-filled refusal to embrace radical change that maintains human economies based on sustainable survival rather than profit for the few, that meet needs before obeisance to the altar of hyped wants. Its cousin is the denial that there is such a malaise at all.

There is no escape for individuals or for humankind. We are all in this together. That is why a Mandela is such glaring demonstration of what is possible. The man had the resource, the reason, and the skill to be an instrument of mass destruction, but instead he offered the proverbial other cheek to those who despised what he stood for and proceeded to construct in a delicate balancing and unifying manner the structures of care and the services of compassion that a world in pain sorely needed.

That the United States and the UK deigned to send their preeminent leaders to join the world whose secretary-generals, presidents, prime ministers, and reigning monarchs are attending to bid this old grandpa *adieu* on his way to his grave may just start the process to forge new patterns of social relations, to create new symbols of personal meaning, to harness the deeper level of human consciousness, and to release new tides of creativity into the total human process.

Madiba's life triggered our hope. In there, we'll stay a long while.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Planon Sakan 2014

A n` un` hahassu malagu ta`lu otru sakan, mauleg un` arastreha anineñg-mu kau mofo`na, tatatte, `sino gaige gi kinahulu` yan minachom atdao. Hokog pinasensian publiku ya siempre u demanda espliaksion ginen hagu haf` bidamu para un` adelanta ha`anen niha.

Muñga mabatga hau gi “biba” sa` siña in` pega `nau gi CD. Nae` ham fitme haf` un` komple petsonatmente gi sigiente siha na asuntu: Manana`lon 25 pot sientu gi ma-utut na pagamienton man-ritirau. Masuhetan hatsadan insurans (insurance) hinemlu` 35-45 pot sientu otru sakan.

Masuhetan mahatsan kandet yan hanom.

Masuhetan hatsadan presiun neñkanu gi tenda siha.

Inestablesen cho`chu` para i sais mit (6,000) ni mantai offisiu pa`gu.

Ma-utut dibin gobietnu ni machuda` guatu kumu dibin famaguon Marianas.

Estague` `nos kuantos asuntun linahyan ni debi in` eppe satton. Ti hu intensiona muna` makat yan abarambau ha`animu. Lau man-hula` hau para un` saunau umadelanta ha`anen tautau siha ni un` representa gi katkuet institusion gobietnamenton Marianas.

Prebeniye ineppe i monhayan hu mente guine na biahe. Yahu umekuñgog haf` ineppen miyu kosake siña bai` esgaihon antau na inadiñgan publikamiente.

Umabira tatte sisteman tanu`

I sisteman tanu` natibu (land tenure system) fininas ni Attikulu Dose. Este na probision umamot i mangai tanu` siha direchon niha mandueñu ni tano` niha. Estague` sustansian este na probision gi papa` i konstitusoin.

`Nai ha chule`guan i mangai tanu` ni direchon uttimu disposion propiadat niha, los uttimos nuebu na arelgon tanu` gumuaha `nai i gobietnu patte dueñu ni tano`mu segun Attikulu Dose?

Ha apupunta huyuñg este sa` presisu na in` tiñgu` na yangin ti siña mamatinas hau uttimu disposision gi tano`mu, pues ti hagu dueñu na i gobietnu.

Gi papa` este nuebu na areglo, kau in` fañgonfotme `an un` dia mamatinas disision i gobietnu pumatten ñaihon tanu` miyu?

Sessu mafama na “proteksion” para i mangai tanu` i Attikulu Dose. Haf` na proteksion `nai Attikulu Dose ha amotyus` dumueñon tano`hu mismu? Mañgge i proteksion gi papa` este na areglo?

Hagas i sisteman tanu` giya Marianas sumetbe yan benefisiosu gi mangai tanu`. Haf` na sige ha` in` ditene mapega tatte ennau na sistema?

Estorian Attikulu Dose

Un` patte gi inakonfotman Covenant mapega kumu proteksion natibu pot 25 años pot no i man-dañikulu na bisnis ginen Amerika u makalamot tanu` Marianas. Estague` `nai maudai i Attikulu Dose lau makextende mas ke dichu intension. Mabira segun kaprechon niha.

Para ta komprenden: I Attikulu Dose chinile`guan hau dirichomu dumueñu ni tano`mu. Gi hilu este na disposision, haye dispues dueñu ni tano`mu? Gi mismu tiempu, libre i gobietnu ha ta`lun dumispone tano`mu kontod para u patten ñaihon gi haye malago`ña.

Hagas Marianas yan libre na sisteman tanu` `nai hagu ni dueñu ni gaige uttimu disposision propiadatmu. Taigue ennau na disposision giya hagu pa`gu gi papa` areglon Attikulu Dose.

Yangin para uma-ataha maliñgun tanu` ya haf` yangin dos natibu umabende ni tanu`? Na ti maliñgu i unu gigon masera i kontrata? Pues mañgge `nai mau`udai un` lache na intension?

Na kuantu gi tauatu-ta siña bumende tanu` niha piot ya uttimu propiadat `nai gaige gima` familia? Haf` na para u sige ha` mantentalu` gi propiadat tautau? Na ti i dueñu solu siña dumiside disposision tano`ña? Fan man-atan sa` ni unu gi entre hamyu u gaige `nai pinalo`pu` i dueñu achake.

Propone De Nuebu

Pot man-tautau hit na guaha na checho`ta ti kabales. Todu pumad-

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



edese este gi katkuet kinalamten. Kulan i tasi, u halom afnu` dispues ma`ti; i mañglu u guaifon yan katma. Memegaiña besis na kulan hit i troñkun niyog ni malagu` ha` dumeskansa lau kada ratu ginapot ni guinaifan mañglu.

Hu kechage muna` halom gi dikiki` na titanus isla man-lamuduñg siha na asuntu. Ti hulat sa` mampos dikiki` kabesahu. Haf` na `an guadog madog gi kanton unai ni sige un` patgon ha ke saguane ni enteru tasin Pasifiku. Cha-suette! Pues hu pasensiaye sa` ansianuyu` kumetuñgu haf` gaige gi tatten i mansañgan yan mantuge`.

Hufa` bisiu manaitai siha man-sustansiau na leblu yan inestudia kontodu i siñko famosu na leblo siha ni man-ma-usa gi primet matuge` i biblia. Mampos ha gu`ot attension-hu i Israelitas ni manmakone` ginen Ehiptu esta iya Jordan as Moses. I kuestion: Haf` na ti sinede si Moses ni Saina—dispues de ha puta` i Red Sea ya hana` fan libre Israelitas—gumacha` iya Jordan? Esta pa`gu ti hu sosoda` ineppen este na kuestion.

Kada ha tantan i kaleru gi mama`ña mafattu gi hinasoghu dos tautau-ta ni mana` suha kihadas niha gi Asian Hospital pot kanset. Mañge` na bisiu lau prefektu dañosu. Megai lokue` gi famaguon-ta para u fan mamadese pot usun chupa ni mafuyot gi pigua`. Pot fabot repara mauleg kau presisu na un` famadese kanset pachot dispues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s see what they’ve got

This letter is to disclose our response to RFP13- DPL-127, the request for proposal to lease three beachfront properties, one located in San Antonio and two located in Marpi, by two proponents, namely Future Enterprise Inc. in a joint venture with Reading Investment & Securities and Korea Asset Investment Corp. & Delta America Inc. in a joint venture with Joong Ang Corp.

When we prepared our response, we were confident that our proposal will be very competitive and had a good chance of being on the short list.

Now that the short list is publically known, our proposals are disclosed as follows:

Future Enterprises Inc. & Reading Investment and Securities and Korea Asset Investment Corp.:

- Proposed project site: Lot 004 I 40, San Antonio
- 1) Invest a total of \$150 million
 - 2) Develop 250 rooms hotel/resort
 - 3) Pay U.S. minimum wage (\$7.25/hour)
 - 4) Plan for Marriot Hotels to operate the hotel.
 - 5) Proposed NMD benefits:
 - Finance the construction of three covered gymnasium simi-

- lar to the Mt. Carmel High School gym in three precincts (a cost of \$350,000 per gym);
- Contribute \$100,000 per year for training in tourism-related career for eligible NMDs;
 - Provide NMDs discount on any goods and services provided by the hotel (25 percent discount); and
 - Hire and maintain 40 to 60 percent NMD employees.
- 6) Proposed lease payments to DPL:
- 8 percent of appraisal value in fee simple interest OR 5 percent of gross income, whichever is greater;
 - Advanced annual payments due for entire 25-year lease.
- Delta America, Inc. and Joong Ang Corp.:**
- Proposed project site: Lot 003 A 11, Marpi
- 1) Invest \$160 million
 - 2) Develop 250 rooms hotel/resort
 - 3) Pay U.S. minimum wage (\$7.25 an hour)
 - 4) Plan for Hilton Hotels as operator of the hotel
 - 5) Proposed NMD benefits:
 - Finance the construction of two covered gynosium;
 - Contribute \$100,000 a year for training in tourism-related career for eligible NMDs;
 - Provide NMDs discount on any goods and services provided by the hotel (25 percent discount);
 - Hire and maintain 40 to 60 percent NMD employees;
 - 6) Proposed lease payments to DPL:

electronic games? No study or nothing says tourists even want electronic gaming. Electronic gaming will cannibalize existing tourists operations, so there’s no new money! There are no real jobs when everything is electronic—just waiters and guards! We didn’t need casinos to start the tourist industry and we don’t need electronic casinos to attract tourists now! Stop trying to force the casinos down our throats! There have been too many reasons or should I say lies told to get casinos and I’m sure the majority of the people really don’t believe these 10 years of casino lies. We the people deserve better and I’m sure they will be signing the petition for a referendum to put an end to this casino mess forever!

Governor, you should know that your people have faith and follow God and the Church, not your casino leadership. I’m sure a lot of voters will be making a New Year’s resolution to not elect any more casino leaders! So if you truly care about being re-elected and if you truly respect the decision of the people you represent then you will set a new course for the many good alternatives to casinos. So man up, Governor, and stop making excuses and just veto the bill because it is what the people want. You and Ralph will be much more appreciated for respecting the people than trying to force casinos down our throats.

P.S.: The church conducted a simple prayer before the last election and we saw the magnitude of the results. Governor, you really don’t want the church to include this casino mess in next year’s prayer before the election because you will be doomed!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

- 8 percent of appraisal value in fee simple interest or 5 percent of gross income, whichever is greater;
 - Advanced annual payments due for entire 25-year lease.
- Now that the shortlisted companies are in the final stage of negotiation with DPL, I hope that their proposals exceed our group’s proposal in terms of benefits to the NMDs, who are the rightful owners of all public lands in the CNMI.

Vicente M. Sablan
Consultant for Future Enterprise Inc. and Delta America Inc.

Wish I could be there...

According to what I read in the *Saipan Tribune*, the RGA Refaluwasch Golf Association is coming together, hopefully with other golf associations, to host a golf tribute tournament honoring our late brother, cousin, and friend, Jess Ikido Wabul. It is the right thing to do and I just wish I could be a part of this. Jess was a person who loved sports so much, especially golf. He was a multi-talented athlete in many sports, such as baseball, softball, basketball, and golf. He excelled especially in golf.

Jess left our beautiful island of Saipan at a really young age, traveling throughout Micronesia and ending up going to the U.S. mainland, where he attended school. When he came back home with his family, he quickly established himself to become one of the most successful and feared competitors in different sports, both locally and throughout our neighboring Pacific islands. I could go on and on about Jess’ many accomplishments in the many sports he loved playing. We witnessed his many victories representing our beautiful CNMI in off-island competitions like the Micro Games, Mobil Games, South Pacific Games, Guam versus CNMI Ryder Cup, and many others, not to mentions scads of local golf tournaments. His continued victories year after year say it all, earning him a coveted spot in the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

Ask any of the RGA members, past and present: Where did our brother Jess get his golf lessons? We really don’t know who taught our brother Jess how to play golf, but come on! First, he is so small yet he hits the golf ball like a-mile-and-a-half further than anyone we know. And what was up with his cross-handed grip? I just had to give it a try one time, playing a round with him, experimenting with his cross-handed grip. I thought I had dislocated my shoulders!

Jess was a phenomenon; that, no one can deny. There will never be another like him. We are surely going to miss him, especially in the sports community. There is so much more to say and so many great stories to share, but I will save them for another time and venue. He was a unique individual, and I am proud to say that he is my favorite relative, and I actually looked up to him as the big brother I never had.

To close out, I would like to say, “Thank you and may your work to honor our brother Jess be a success.” I also want to acknowledge and say my greetings to sister Tua and her children. Also, to sister Vivian and her children, greetings to you all and peace be with you. Lastly, to all my CNMI brothers and sisters, greetings to you all and may the holidays be merry, filled with family, friends, and good cheer.

Andres Lisua Nepaial
Yokota Air Base, Japan

No means no!

I have always tried to support the sitting governor but the problem is they continue to fail to listen to the people they work for and their church leaders. I truly like you and Ralph on the ticket but you keep pushing the issue of casinos. FYI governor, electronic gaming is a casino and no really means no! I’m sure most of us have experienced the phenomenon of being told no by our parents and many of us, self included, have tried to defy that no from our parents and I’m sure most if not all of us who did defy our parents ended up in trouble. Well, this is exactly what the governor keeps doing, defying his parents figuratively as he works for the people who have said no to casinos.






It is clearly obvious that people want to keep Saipan as a family destination, with gambling on the outer islands, just as we see in the mainland where the casinos are outside major cities or on the border with another state. You don’t subject the major populated areas to casinos. They are more trouble than they are worth in crime, broken homes, etc. It should also be noted that many casinos are moving to electronic casinos to save on labor costs and, yes, these electronic establishments call themselves casinos. The two-pronged approach to getting casinos on Saipan is not going to work as people know better.

I would like governor to consider the following: The people know that if poker in the villages is bad, then hundreds of virtual casinos are going to be hell! Where is the money for the CNMI? The license fee is only \$2,500. The estimated income from the machines is an ugly joke! The electronic games’ betting system cheats the CNMI’s collection! Where are the new tourists coming from to play

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼79

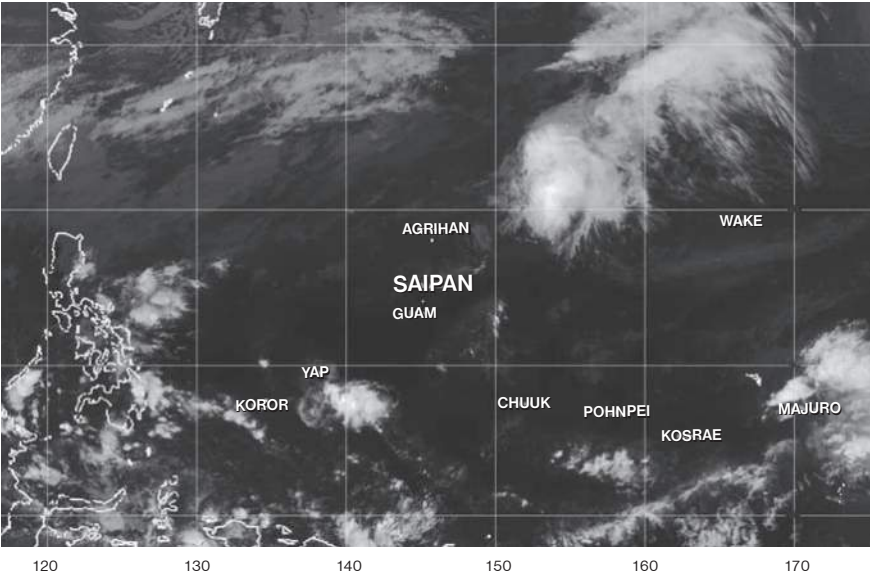
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲36 ▼17
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲69 ▼63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲69 ▼42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼51
Miami	Showers	▲81 ▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲30 ▼18
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼44
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲44 ▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲51 ▼33
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼42
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲41 ▼31
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57 ▼40
Seoul	Ice	▲39 ▼20
Tokyo	Sunny	▲55 ▼39
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲34 ▼22

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Iwo To Island at 25N148E to 20N140E then continues through 130E at 16N as a shear line. Patchy clouds and rain are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. Another cold front extends southwestward through 22N180 to 19N175E then curves westward to 15N160E to end south of Minami Tori Shima at 18N153E. Clouds and rain are seen along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Converging southeast winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 19N151E to 19N157E. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Koror within 50 miles of a line from 7N130E to 7N133E to 5N135E south of Yap between 6N and 9N from 138E to 143E and south of Pohnpei between 2N and 5N from 155E to 160E. A trade-wind surge is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and east of the Marshall Islands east of a line from 12N167E to 2N172E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:59 PM	1:54 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	2:46 AM
Saturday	3:27 PM	3:37 AM
Sunday	4:13 PM	4:29 AM
Monday	5:00 PM	5:20 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 DZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Island Snapshots



ADVANCED CELEBRATION

Camille A. Samonte-Bocago, eighth from left, is joined by former coworkers, coworkers, and friends with their families during an advanced celebration of her birthday on Dec. 7, 2013, on Saipan.

JORDAN BOCAGO



Camille A. Samonte-Bocago, second from right, celebrates her upcoming birthday with friends and their families.

JORDAN BOCAGO



VISITING ADMIRAL

Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., center, disembarks a MH-60S Seahawk helicopter at the Atomic Bomb Pits at Tinian's North Field on Dec. 10. During his visit, Harris was able to see how Marines participating in Exercise Forager Fury II cleared the runways at Tinian's North Field. The purpose of exercise FF II is to employ and assess combat power generation and operations in a deployed, austere and unimproved environment.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. MATTHEW MANNING



Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., left, talks with Lt. Col. Howard Eyth at the Atomic Bomb Pits at Tinian's North Field Dec. 10. Harris was impressed to see how Marines participating in Exercise Forager Fury II cleared and repaired the four runways at Tinian's North Field as well as the expeditionary conditions in which the Marines are operating. Harris is the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Eyth is the commanding officer Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. MATTHEW MANNING



Local historian Don A. Farrell, left, explains the history of the Atomic Bomb Pits at Tinian's North Field to Navy Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. Dec. 10. Due to the size of the bombs, the pits were required to load the bombs onto aircraft during World War II. Farrell is the chief of staff with the Tinian mayor's office and Harris is the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. MATTHEW MANNING



HELPING HANDS

Golden Harvest International School teachers and their students eagerly show off their canned goods donations for the victims of Typhoon Hayan/Yolanda that recently devastated some parts of the Philippines' Visayas region. Donations will be sent through LBC, Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4-month birthday to our princess, Mitsue Nevaeh Nakazato Borja! Every day you surprise Mommy and Daddy with new things. We love you and wish you many more months to come! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy.



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Ospreys, Seahawk choppers land on Tinian's North Field

An MV-22B Osprey lands Dec. 9 at Baker runway on Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II.
U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopters and MV-22B Ospreys landed on Dec. 9 at the recently cleared Baker and Charlie runways on Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II.

The MH-60s executed forward arming and refueling point training while the Ospreys transported troops to the location during the exercise, which allows Marine Aircraft Group 12 to improve aviation combat readiness and will simulate operations in a deployed, expeditionary environment.

The MH-60s are with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and the Ospreys are with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, MAG-36, currently assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force for FFII.

"A FARP allows for expedient refueling, arming and de-arming of aircraft as well as providing the opportunity to get an aircraft forward to the fight without having to return back to a home port to get fuel," said Gunnery Sgt. Earl Master-son, fuels chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12, 1st MAF, III MEF. "[Fuels] play a vital because we issue the fuel support that the aircraft needs to expediently refuel and carry out the remainder of its mission. Without the fuel, the FARP would no longer operate, and Forager Fury II would be a failure."

The exercise encompasses fixed and rotary-wing flight operations allowing exploitation of several Marine aviation functions including assault support and fuel storage and distribution.

"The FARP is truly expeditionary in nature. The FARP



A Navy MH-60S Seahawk helicopter refuels Dec. 9 at Charlie runway on Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II to execute a forward arming and refueling point training.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

support was designed to enable close air support for the infantry," said Chief Warrant Officer Luc Brennan, fuels officer with MWSS-171. "We'll move forward and provide an area for aircraft to refuel and re-arm in order to reengage [the mission]."

The purpose of the FARP is to create an advance location that reduces the turnaround time for aircraft and to rapidly project close air support as well as assault air support if MAG-12 is moving troops forward, according to Brennan.

Along with FARP operations, Marines at North Field repaired deteriorated runways and installed AM-2 matting for vertical take-off and landing of rotary aircraft, allowing the Osprey to land at North Field.

"The range proficiency of the Osprey assists not only this exercise, but the Pacific region as well," said Capt. Adrian Evangelista, VMM-262 pilot. "With just one tank of gas and the option to aerial refuel, we can extend the range of the Osprey, which in turn extends the range of Marine aviation combat readiness."

The inclusion of the Osprey during FF II provides a unique opportunity for MAG-12 to incorporate the diverse capabilities

of the aircraft into MAG-level exercises.

"Although we are a fixed-wing squadron, at any time we



A Navy MH-60S Seahawk helicopter lands Dec. 9 at Charlie runway on Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II to execute a forward arming and refueling point training.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

can deploy forward, either during an exercise or contingency operations and we would be part of the plan to support FARP operations," said Evangelista.

The MAF and MAG-level exercises and training on Guam and within the Mariana

Islands Range Complex demonstrate the aviation combat element capabilities of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. Aviation capabilities enable the MAGTF to project force or respond to crises throughout the Asia-Pacific region.



An MV-22B Osprey disembarks Marines Dec. 9 at Baker runway on Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

Scent of a coconut tree

As the coconut rhinoceros beetle invasion threatens Guam's coconut trees, it has inspired regional collaboration by researchers determined to understand what attracts a rhino. Decoding chemical cues that attract rhino beetles may unlock the secret to saving the island's palm trees.

Dr. Matthew Siderhurst, a chemical ecologist from Eastern Mennonite University, and technician Dominick Skabeikis of USDA-ARS-Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, were recently on island working with the Coconut Rhinoceros Eradication team and University of Guam entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore.

"One outcome of our collaboration with Dr. Siderhurst is the important improvement of adding lights to our CRB bucket traps, which has resulted in a three-fold increase in the number



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Dr. Matthew Siderhurst patches small holes in the plastic in order to pump air through the wrapped coconut tree so that individual plant compounds may be extracted and analyzed to find what rhinoceros beetles find so attractive about coconut palms.



Chemical ecologist Dr. Matthew Siderhurst and University of Guam extension agent Roland Quitugua work to wrap a coconut crown to extract plant volatiles.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

of beetles found in these traps," said Moore. Many CRB reports indicate beetles being attracted at night to lit areas. "On this trip Mat and Dom are collecting chemical compounds from local coconut trees and compost material for analysis at his lab in Hilo."

Siderhurst held a postdoctoral research associate position with Dr. Eric Jang at the USDA-ARS-PBARC in Hilo, Hawaii, working to identify attractants for several economically important invasive insects. Hawaii is very concerned about the possibility of rhino beetles showing up in their coconut trees, so they are funding Jang and Siderhurst's studies on CRB. The concern in

Hawaii was heightened last week when a live rhino beetle was caught in the baggage area at the Honolulu International Airport. It is not known if the beetle was a hitchhiker from Guam.

Siderhurst has been conducting electrophysiology tests to find out which chemicals excite the beetle.

"We attach electrodes to their antennae and our equipment records the beetles' reaction to the plant volatiles we pass over them," said Siderhurst. "Our hope is to isolate the chemical in coconut trees that attracts the adult beetles to feed or aggregate, and use it as an improved lure to attract them to traps in order to suppress the population."

The experiment to isolate chemicals from coconut trees involves wrapping the crown of a coconut tree in a huge plastic bag and then inserting glass tubes into the bag in order to pump air through the tree and extract the plant volatiles. The volatiles are then put through a gas analyzer to identify individual compounds.

University of Guam extension agent and Coconut Rhinoceros Eradication team leader Roland Quitugua is curious as to why the CRB is attracted to coconut palms and not areca (betel nut) palms. "I find coconut palms with rhino damage growing right next to betel nut trees that haven't been disturbed by the beetles at all. What is it that draws

them to feed on the coconut trees and not touch the betel palms?"

The Japanese proverb, "None of us is as smart as all of us," certainly applies to the difficulties of controlling invasive species introduced to island ecosystems that have developed in isolation. USDA-ARS-PBARC Hawaii, USDA-APHIS, the U.S. Forest Service, the Guam government, and the University of Guam have funded this collaborative study of coconut rhinoceros beetles in the hope that we can learn how to control them before much more damage is done.

To report CRB sightings in Guam, call 475-PEST(7378). (UOG)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mt. Carmel club presents '12th Knight'

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its adaptation of William Shakespeare's *12th Knight* on Wednesday, Dec. 11, and Thursday, Dec. 12, 7pm each night, at Pacific Island's Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Jazz, dance, and comedy all come together in this New Orleans, Mardi Gras interpretation of Shakespeare's classic tale of bizarre love triangles and mistaken identities.

Admission is \$5. Tickets are available at Mount Carmel School's Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184, visit www.mtcarmel.edu.net, or email galvin.deleonguerro@gmail.com. (PR)

Saipan beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These

bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

CCA board meeting on Dec. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 3:00pm at the CCA conference room. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org.

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Joe Santos and Joe Guerrero. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org.

USDA launches energy efficiency loan program for rural districts

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Wednesday that USDA will take new steps to save consumers money on their energy bills in partnership with rural electric cooperatives. USDA plans to provide rural electric cooperatives up to \$250 million to lend to business and residential customers for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems.

"Energy efficiency retrofitting can shrink home energy use by 40 percent, saving money for consumers and helping rural utilities manage their electric load more efficiently," said Vilsack. "Ultimately, reducing energy use helps pump capital back into rural communities. This program is designed to meet the unique needs of consumers and businesses to encourage energy efficiency retrofitting projects across rural America."

Vilsack noted that the Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation Program, by promoting energy savings in rural areas, is another step by

which USDA is supporting President Obama's Climate Action Plan. The program will help build a cleaner and more sustainable domestic energy sector for future generations by reducing barriers to investment in energy-efficiency and potentially cutting energy bills for American families and businesses in the process.

Although energy-efficiency measures can reduce home energy use considerably, many consumers and businesses do not invest in them because they lack the capital or financing to do so. Consistent with President Obama's Climate Action Plan, this program will reduce barriers to these investments by making financing more available.

Funding will be provided to rural electric cooperatives and utilities—the majority of which already have energy efficiency programs in place—who will then re-lend the money to help homeowners or businesses make energy efficiency improvements. In addition to energy audits, the loans may be used for upgrades to heating,

lighting and insulation, and conversions to more efficient or renewable energy sources.

A March 2012 Rockefeller Foundation report on financing energy efficiency projects found that a \$279 billion investment could yield more than \$1 trillion in energy savings over 10 years. That is the equivalent of 30 percent of the annual electricity spending in the U.S. Funding from the loan program will complement and strengthen other energy efficiency activities at USDA. Through its Rural Development mission area, USDA also supports the research, development and use of renewable fuels.

Vilsack noted that many of USDA's existing efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency are provided by the Farm Bill—and he once again urged Congress to provide a new, multiyear Food, Farm and Jobs Bill that continues investing in a clean energy future for rural America.

The rule was published in the Dec. 5 issue of the *Federal Register*. (USDA)

Business

Navigating maze of phone choices

NEW YORK (AP)—So you’re ready to buy a new smartphone for your loved one. Which do you choose?

Before you do anything, you have to decide whether to buy the phone outright or go the traditional route of buying a carrier-subsidized one with a two-year service contract.

In most cases, you’re better off with the contract price, as long as the person you’re buying it for plans to keep the phone for two years and doesn’t change carriers. Prices vary, but expect to pay \$500 to \$700 without a contract, or \$100 to \$300 with one.

Even with the \$15 monthly discount that AT&T and Sprint offer to those who bring their own phone, you or your loved one will be paying \$27-a-month installments for a high-end device. The discounts are great if you want to upgrade phones frequently or find a used or cheaper phone. And with T-Mobile, you must buy or bring your own device, but its service fees for voice, text and data have been reduced for everyone.

Next, you need to decide on an operating system. Here’s a guide to that, along with some of the devices available. Keep in mind some phones are limited to certain wireless carriers.

APPLE’S IOS

Although hardcore users might find the software behind iPhones irksome because Apple limits how much you can customize it, the iPhone is an excellent choice for people simply needing a well-rounded phone. What makes iOS especially powerful: the thousands of apps available for it. Many leading apps come to iOS first or have more features for it.

Resist the temptation for a free iPhone 4S with a two-year contract. It’s a 2-year-old phone that will be 4 years old by the next upgrade.

Your best choice is the iPhone 5S (\$649 without contract, \$199 with contract). A sensor lets you use your fingerprint to bypass the phone’s four-digit security passcode. I find the phone’s camera among the best for everyday shots, and improvements in the 5S make it better for low-light shots, too. For \$100 less, you can get an iPhone 5C without the fingerprint sensor or the improved camera.

GOOGLE’S ANDROID

Android addresses a major shortcoming with iPhones: choice.

Sure, there are three iPhone models, but their screens are no larger than 4 inches diagonally, and none is in high definition. Although the iPhone has a great camera, images are limited to 8 megapixels.

Android is also adaptable. Phone makers can tweak Google’s operating system to offer a variety of useful features, though in doing so, they also add confusion and make it difficult for app developers to keep up. That’s one reason some apps are slower to reach Android. By contrast, Apple pushes the latest iOS updates as they come out.

If you’ve settled on Android, you must decide on the right mix of features:

■ Looking for cheap? Consider Motorola’s Moto G (\$179) or Google’s Nexus 5 (\$349). Both are good at the basics, with few frills. Moto G won’t run on the faster, 4G LTE cellular networks, while the Nexus has shorter battery life than many phones tested.

■ Looking for big? HTC’s 5.9-inch One Max is a larger version of the 4.7-inch HTC One. The Max also has a fingerprint sensor, though not a reliable one. Samsung’s 5.7-inch Galaxy Note 3 is much more than a step up from the 5-inch Galaxy S4. It has a stylus and several note-taking features. If you want even larger, Samsung’s Galaxy Mega is 6.3 inches, but is weak on display quality and other specs.



Tori Romine, 12, standing, takes a break from styling Alyssa Moore’s hair as they both answer texts on their smartphones in the bathroom of the Alyssa’s home in San Jose, Calif., Oct. 2, 2013.

MCT

■ Looking to multitask? Samsung phones let you display two apps at once. The Note 3 extends that with Pen Window. When you’re done with an app, just minimize it into a small dot and move it out of the way. One tap gets it back. LG’s G2 phone lets you make two apps semi-transparent while working on a third. All of these features work only with selected apps, though.

■ Looking for a hands-free experience? With Motorola’s Moto X, you can activate the Google Now virtual assistant entirely by voice command. You usually have to push a button first. The Nexus lets you activate Google Now by voice, but only from the home screen. The Moto X feature works even when the phone is idle, and it responds only to your voice.

■ Looking for a great display? Several phones offer high-definition screens capable of displaying video at 1080p. The Nexus, the S4 and the regular One are among the best, with resolution at more than 440 pixels per inch. I like the richer colors on the S4’s AMOLED screen, but the LCD screens on the others aren’t bad. AMOLED is also available on the Moto X, though that display is limited to 720p.

■ Looking for an unusual design? How about having the volume and power buttons on the back of the G2? Or the ability to customize everything from the colors of the power button to the message on the back of the Moto X? Waterproof options include Sony’s Xperia Z and Samsung’s Galaxy S4 Active.

■ Looking to take pictures? Samsung’s Galaxy S4 Zoom has a 16-megapixel camera with a real zoom lens, offering up to 10 times magnification. Other phones magnify images using software, which degrades image quality. But the Zoom’s pictures are average, and the lens makes the device bulky and impractical. The standard S4 and the Note 3 are both at 13 megapixels, among the highest. The Moto X is at 10 megapixels and lets you launch the camera by twisting the phone like a doorknob.

MICROSOFT’S WINDOWS

Nokia offers phones with good cameras for low-light settings, including the Lumia 1020 and 1520.

The downside: Both run Windows Phone software, which doesn’t have as many apps yet. It does offer good compatibility with Microsoft services such as SkyDrive storage. A bare-bones version of Office is included. With iPhones and Android, that requires a \$100-a-year subscription.

Nation

Poll: Clinton top 2016 Democrat contender; GOP field wide open

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The latest McClatchy-Marist poll is a tale of two very different political parties: Hillary Clinton has a huge lead among Democrats for the party’s 2016 presidential nomination, while the Republicans face a melee with no clear front-runner.

One measure of Clinton’s strength: Not only do 63 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent voters in the July 15-18 poll support the former secretary of state, U.S. senator and first lady, but finishing second is “unsure” at 18 percent. Vice President Joe Biden trails at 13 percent.

As for the Republicans, here’s a barometer of the fracas looming for them: “Unsure” tops the field as the choice of one-fourth of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents. Among actual potential candidates, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie leads with 15 percent, followed closely by the party’s 2012 vice presidential nominee Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

In other words, while it’s early, there’s no true leader of this pack.

“Numerically, Christie is in front,” said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion at Marist College in New York, which conducted the poll.

But look closely at that roster of candidates, he said: Christie is the most prominent moderate. He benefits from a field stacked with conservatives who divide that big Republican constituency.

“Christie does much better if there’s a huge crowd,” Miringoff said.

In Iowa, traditionally the site of the nation’s first presidential caucuses, Republicans add another reason for his stature.

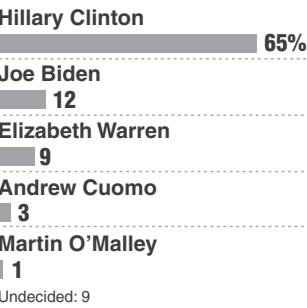
“He’s the most known at this point,” said Craig Robinson, editor-in-chief of the Iowa Republican, which follows state politics.

Paul is the son of former Texas Rep. Ron Paul, who also ran for president and had a sizable following for his libertarian views. But voters are still looking the younger Paul over. As for Rubio, many conservatives remain uneasy, citing his alliance with Senate Democrats last month to write legislation that would provide a 13-year path to citizenship for most un-

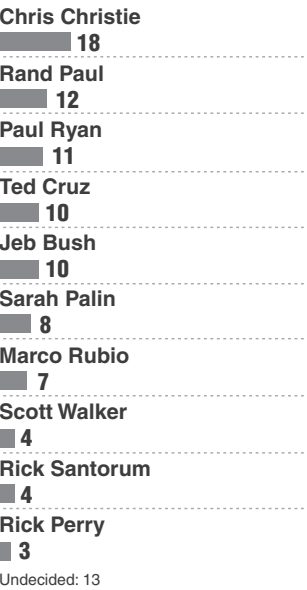
Presidential hopefuls, 2016

Hillary Clinton dominates the potential field of candidates for the Democratic nomination, and the Republican race is wide open, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

• If the 2016 state **Democratic primary/caucus** were held today, who would you support?



• If the 2016 state **Republican primary/caucus** were held today, who would you support?



•What is more important for Democratic nominee?

Continue Obama's policies



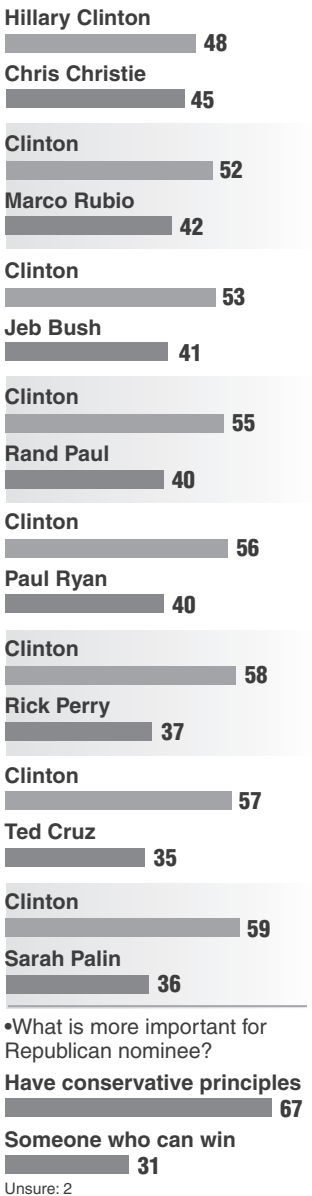
Move in different direction



Unsure: 4

Source: McClatchy-Marist poll, Dec. 3-5, 2013, of 1,173 adults; margin of error: +/- 2.9 percentage points; 988 registered voters; MOR: +/-3.1; 466 Democrats and leaners; MOR: +/-4.5; 419 Republicans and leaners; MOR: +/- 4.8 Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

• If the 2016 election were held today, who would you support if the candidates were:



•What is more important for Republican nominee?

Have conservative principles



Someone who can win



Unsure: 2

documented immigrants.

The Republican who’s stirred some buzz so far is Cruz, Robinson said. The freshman senator’s blunt conservatism, as well as his eagerness to engage voters, has proven popular.

“He tells it like it is,” Robinson said.

Few are ruling out Christie. He is regarded as able to tap an Iowa donor base and has become familiar in party circles.

Christie, though, is no favorite of many conservatives. He angered them just before last year’s election when he appeared with President Barack Obama, praising the federal response to Superstorm Sandy. In May, the two appeared together again in New Jersey, as Christie renewed his praise and tossed footballs with the president.

While those appearances might help him win re-election in November, they could prove useful fodder for conservative rivals in 2016. Nearly two-

thirds of Republicans said in the McClatchy-Marist poll that it was more important to have a party nominee for president who would stand up for conservative principles. About one-third said it was important to have a candidate who could win.

Being a candidate who could win was Romney’s pitch when he sought the White House in 2008 and 2012. But he had a hard time convincing conservatives that he was a true believer and lost the nomination five years ago. Even last year, when he won his party’s top prize, Romney struggled to generate enthusiasm among the party base.

Christie, the poll suggests, is the candidate with the best chance of beating Clinton—he trails her 47 percent to 41 percent. Clinton tops Bush 48 percent to 40 percent and has double-digit leads over Rubio, Paul, Ryan and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Worlds

Obama hails Mandela as 'last great liberator'

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Amid cheers and song for the prisoner who became peace-maker, President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state Tuesday with a plea for the world to emulate Nelson Mandela, "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

Obama's eulogy was the rhetorical highlight of a memorial service in which South Africans celebrated Mandela's life with singing and dancing, often during dignitaries' speeches. They also booed their own president and were chided by a top government official who said: "Let's not embarrass ourselves."

Lashing rain lent a free-wheeling aspect to the memorial, with people taking shelter in the stadium's wide hallways, where they sang anti-apartheid anthems from the 1970s and 1980s. Foul weather kept many away, and the 95,000-capacity stadium

was only two-thirds full.

Obama implored people to embrace Mandela's universal message of peace and justice, comparing the South African leader to Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. Mandela spent 27 years in prison under a racist regime, and promoted forgiveness and reconciliation when he was finally freed.

"We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Obama said. "But let me say to the young people of Africa, and young people around the world—you can make his life's work your own."

He hailed Mandela, who died Thursday at 95, as the unlikely leader of a movement that gave "potent voice to the claims of the oppressed and the moral necessity of racial justice."

"Born during World War I, far from the corridors of power, a boy raised herding cattle and tutored by the elders



of his Thembu tribe, Madiba would emerge as the last great liberator of the 20th century," Obama said, referring to Man-

dela by his clan name.

Obama, who like Mandela became the first black president of his country, said he

was inspired by Mandela as a student. The speech was greeted with thunderous applause, and many heads of state and

AP
President Barack Obama waves as he arrives to speak at the memorial service for former South African president Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium in the Johannesburg, South Africa township of Soweto, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

other foreign dignitaries gave a standing ovation.

Obama pointed out that "around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs, and are still persecuted for what they look like, or how they worship, or who they love."

Among the heads of state and government were some from countries like Cuba that don't hold fully democratic elections. On the way to the podium, Obama shook hands with Cuban President Raul Castro, underscoring a recent warming of relations between their countries.

Police clash with protesters in Kiev

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Security forces clashed with protesters as they began tearing down opposition barricades and tents set up in the center of the Ukrainian capital early Wednesday, in an escalation of the weeks-long standoff threatening the leadership of President Viktor Yanukovich.

Several thousand police in riot gear used their shields to push back protesters and successfully removed some of their tents and barricades. But thousands of protesters, their ranks swelling through the night, put up fierce resistance for hours, shoving back at the police lines to keep them away from the center of the protest camp on Independence Square in downtown Kiev.

The protests began in late November when Yanukovich backed away from a pact that would deepen the former Soviet republic's economic ties with the 28-nation European Union—a pact that surveys showed was supported by nearly half the country's people. The agreement would make Ukraine more Western-oriented and would represent a significant loss of face for Russia, which has either controlled or heavily influenced Ukraine for centuries.

Demonstrators, waving EU and Ukrainian flags and singing the national anthem, shouted "Shame! Shame!" and "We will stand." Scuffles broke out between police and opposition lawmakers, one of whom laid down on the snow trying to block a vehicle from advancing on the camp. An Orthodox priest sang prayers,

and one protester undressed to his waist in the frigid air, got down on his knees and shouted "Stop this ... We are one people!"

Several protesters were injured. Some policemen helped injured activists up from the ground and moved them away.

Kiev police said authorities were merely trying to clear the streets leading to Independence Square, but not to remove the main encampment, the Ukrainian Interfax news agency reported.

Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, who is the reigning world heavyweight boxing champion, urged Ukrainians to rush to the center of the capital to defend democracy.

"We will say no to a police state, no to a dictatorship," he told protesters in the square.

The confrontation at the protest camp unfolded as EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland were in the city to try to talk to the government and the opposition and work out a solution to defuse the crisis.

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Thai democracy enters dangerous new crossroads

BANGKOK (AP)—Protesters waging a surreal political fight to oust Thailand's elected prime minister are trying to establish what amounts to a parallel government—one complete with "volunteer peacekeepers" to replace the police, a foreign policy of their own and a central committee that has already begun issuing audacious orders.

Among the most brazen, Tuesday: a demand that caretaker premier Yingluck Shinawatra be prosecuted for "insurrection," and another calling on the public to "monitor" her family's

movements.

Leading academics have slammed the scheme as undemocratic and unconstitutional. Critics have called its leader, Suthep Thaugsuban, delusional. But the ex-lawmaker's bid to seize power could become reality if the military or the judiciary intervenes, as they have in the past. Either way, analysts say this Southeast Asian nation is at a dangerous new crossroads that could drag on, and end

with more bloodshed.

"This is a combustible situation. We cannot have two governments in Bangkok running Thailand," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, director of Chulalongkorn's Institute of Security and International Studies. "Something will have to give."

Yingluck is desperate to end weeks of political unrest that has killed five people and wounded nearly 300 more. On Monday,

she dissolved the lower house of Parliament and called for elections, now set for Feb. 2. But neither move defused the crisis, and a 150,000-strong crowd pressed on with a massive march against her in Bangkok.

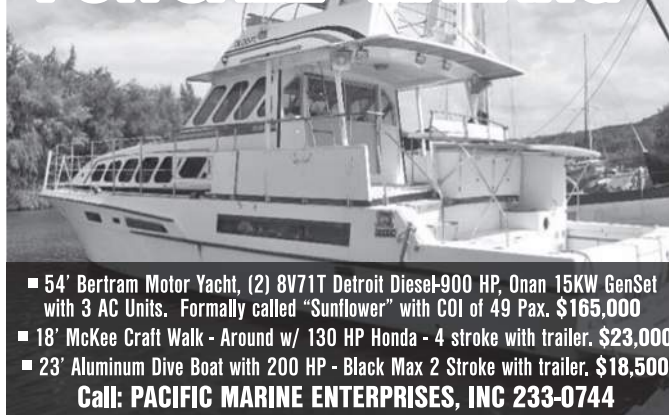
Yingluck said Tuesday she would not resign despite a nighttime deadline issued by Suthep. But there was no hiding the nation's precarious state. Asked how she was holding up, tears welled in Yingluck's eyes.

"I have retreated as far as I can," she said, just before turning and walking quickly away.



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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Interested applicant are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience and must apply in person at Okada Corporation dba Okadaya 1F Joeten Commercial Bldg. Susupe, Saipan (No phone calls please.)

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Qualification Requirements:

High School Graduate, GED or equivalent and must have 1 or more years work experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related work. English and Chinese speaker preferred. Must have a valid driver's license with clean driving record. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing with excellent communication, customer, sales and leadership skills is an advantage.

Applications may be obtained at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than December 17, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing may be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Life & Style

Peter Jackson stands by 48 frames-per-second

NEW YORK (AP)—Has Peter Jackson reflected on the massive chunk of his life that he's devoted to Hobbits?

"You're not going to make me are you?" he winces. "It's a long time. A long time."

The 52-year-old New Zealand director still has another movie to go, so he can be forgiven for not wanting to ponder too deeply the 16 years he's already spent in the service of J.R.R. Tolkien. The latest installment, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," is his fifth Tolkien film (part two in the three-movie "Hobbit" pre-

quel to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy) and approximately hour 84 in the Middle-earth saga.

That may be a slight overestimate, but in any case, it's been a lot of Orcs.

The journey has largely been a smooth one. Each "Lord of the Rings" film was received rapturously, averaging about \$1 billion a pop, and the trilogy culminated in the Oscar steamrolling of "The Return of the King."

But when Jackson turned his attention to Tolkien's first book, "The Hobbit," things got bumpier. He and New Line feuded over merchandising revenue

from "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" was held up. Initially, Jackson was to executive produce with Guillermo del Toro directing a two-film adaptation, but after delays raged on, del Toro dropped out and Jackson returned to the director's chair.

When Jackson and Warner Bros. opted to make "The Hobbit" three films, a feeling of Hobbit overdose—and claims of overreaching—began to surround the project. The first film didn't enjoy nearly as warm a response



Jackson

from critics or filmgoers.

"An Unexpected Journey" made another \$1 billion, but it was derided for its lengthy running time (182 minutes), its prolonged introduction of characters and its innovative use of 48 frames-per-second, double the industry standard. Jackson had already broken new ground with technical effects like the motion-capture technique used to create the hobbit mutant Gollum, and he hailed the higher frame rate as the future of filmmaking—

a sharper image that could attract moviegoers like 3-D had.

But the 48 fps wasn't well received. Critics said the film seemed overamplified and that the increased clarity yielded a discombobulating hyper-realism that contrasted poorly with the set design.

With "The Desolation of Smaug," Jackson hopes to be righting the "Hobbit" ship. But he's resolutely sticking with 48 fps as the definitive way to see the movie: "It's by far the best way to see it," he says.

Yet Jackson and Warner Bros. have declined to show film critics Jackson's preferred version, instead only screening in advance the film in 24 frames-per-second.

"I was part of that decision," says Jackson. "We did feel that last year, we split focus in a way. People were reviewing the frame rate as well as reviewing the movie. I felt the technology dominated."

The director, though, says he's also worked to improve how the higher frame rate feels.

"I spent a lot of time in the color-grading room really putting my head into how we make the 48 not have a video feel," says Jackson. "Some of the criticism of the 48 frames was not actually to do with the frame rate per se, which is just making it easier on your eyes, reducing motion blur. It was to do with the fact that it felt like TV, like soap opera."

Moviegoers will get to choose. They can see "Desolation of Smaug" in 24 or 48, as well as in 3-D. Warner Bros. is increasing the number of theaters showing the film in 48 fps: 750 theaters, up from 450 on the first "Hobbit" movie. Internationally, it will play

in 2,500 theaters, an increase of more than 800 screens.

The film, meanwhile, is finding much better reviews. Along with Benedict Cumberbatch's titular dragon created with motion-capture, Jackson has added a notable new character to Tolkien's tale. Evangeline Lilly plays the female elf, Tauriel, who's the fighting equal of Orlando Bloom's Legolas.

"It honestly was a cold-blooded decision to write a good, strong female role because there aren't any," says Jackson.

Earlier this year while shooting pickups from the original shooting of "Desolation of Smaug," Jackson also wrapped up leftover production for the third film, "There and Back Again," to be released next December. His time with Tolkien is finally coming to an end.

But Jackson's life is fully entwined with the films. He makes them with his wife and creative partner Fran Walsh. Their pugs make a cameo in "Smaug." Jackson, too, has regularly made appearances in the films. Since the timeline is about 60 years earlier in the "Hobbit" movies, he says his briefly glimpsed character in "Smaug" is the grandfather of his "Rings" cameo.

"I care so much about my cameo, I even map all the connections between the films," he laughs. "It's just silly fun."

In Celebration of Her New Life

† Irene Kotomor
Olopai Borja

Born on March 29th, 1965 and was
called by her Creator on
December 6th, 2013 at the age of 48

She is Now Reunited With Her:

Parents: †Abel Rabauliman Olopai & †Carmen Kotomor Olopai
Parents-in-law: †Leon Torres Borja & †Theresita Faisao Borja
Brothers and Sister: †Titus K. Olopai, †Jude K. Olopai, †Eileen O. Pellegrino and †Baby Helen
Brothers-in-law: †Juan Diego F. Borja, †Martin F. Borja and †Anthony Pellegrino

And Her Loving Memories Will Forever Be Cherished In The Hearts Of Her:

Husband: Joseph Faisao Borja

Sons: Xavier Olopai Borja and Joshua Olopai Borja

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

†Titus K. Olopai and family
†Jude K. Olopai and family
Shirley O. Calvo & Daniel K. Santos and family
Delfina O. & Michael Outland and family
†Eileen O. & †Anthony Pellegrino and family
Mila C. Pellegrino
Jean O. & Mark O. Rabauliman and family

Lourdes B. & Abel Valenzuela and family
Antonio F. & Celerina Borja and family
†Juan Diego F. & Fengying Borja and family
†Martin F. & Jane Borja and family
Herman F. & Laura Ngracheliong and family
Debra Ng. & William San Agustin and family
Elizabeth F. Ngracheliong and family

Irene is additionally survived by many nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles and godchildren.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered at 6:00am and the nightly rosary is being said at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Parish, Garapan.

On Friday, December 13th 2013., our beloved †Irene will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Parish at 7:00am. Responso service is at 7:30 am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00am, followed by interment services at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman where she will be at a peaceful rest.

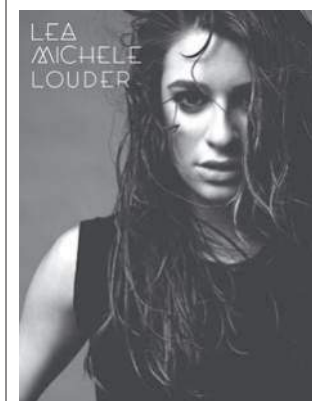
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Maase and Thank You,

**Joseph Faisao Borja
Xavier and Joshua**



Lea Michele sets date of album release



NEW YORK (AP)—Thanks to her role on Fox's "Glee," Lea Michele is no stranger to recording music. Now she's ready to launch her solo music career.

The 27-year-old will release her debut album, "Louder," on March 4.

In a press release, Michele says the album is a reflection of her "experiences over this past year" and her "journey as an artist up to this point."

The first single, "Cannonball," written by Sia, is available for download.

On "Glee," Michele plays Rachel Berry, a college student in New York City who dreams of becoming a famous Broadway star.

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HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG 3D [CC,DV] (NR) 1201 AM

HOBBIT MARATHON 3D (NR) 830 PM

Times For 12/12 www.REGmovies.com

Pope, pop singer share MTVU award



Pope Francis



Lorde

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

2nd man accused of stealing Walker wreckage booked

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A second man charged with stealing a piece of the car in which “Fast & Furious” actor Paul Walker died has surrendered. Authorities say 25-year-old Anthony Janow surrendered Tuesday at the San Fernando courthouse. He was booked and released on \$60,000 bail. His attorney’s name wasn’t released. Walker and driver Roger Rodas died Nov. 30 when their Porsche crashed in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita. Prosecutors say Janow and 18-year-old Jameson Witty stole a roof panel as the wreckage was being towed. They were charged Monday with felony grand theft of personal property and two misdemeanors. They face up to 4 1/2 years in jail if convicted. Witty also is free on bail.

Mean girls, rejoice: ‘Heathers’ musical coming

NEW YORK (AP)—Before there was “Mean Girls,” there was “Heathers.” Now that dark comedy is ready to bully its way into New York as a musical. The 1988 film starring Winona Ryder, Shannen Doherty and Christian Slater has been turned into a show by Tony Award nominee Laurence O’Keefe and Emmy Award winner Kevin Murphy. It starts performances off-Broadway in March at New World Stages after a stint in Los Angeles this year. Andy Fickman directs. It tells the story of a high school misfit in Ohio who teams up with her boyfriend to kill her mean but popular classmates—most called Heather—and make it look like suicide. O’Keefe wrote the music and lyrics to the Broadway show “Legally Blonde” and Kevin Murphy penned the lyrics to “Reefer Madness.”

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV’s college channel has gone in two wildly different directions in naming Pope Francis and pop singer Lorde as its man and woman of the year.

MTVU said Tuesday that both

figures challenged their followers with unexpected stands.

Since becoming pope, Francis has urged the Catholic Church not to become obsessed with “small-minded rules” and to emphasize compassion over condemnation in dealing with touchy topics like abortion,

gays and contraception.

The New Zealand teenager Lorde released a debut single, “Royals,” that puts down a culture of conspicuous consumption, and distributed it first for free.

Last year, MTVU honored Frank Ocean and Malala Yousafzai.

Pink: Give husband some credit for song’s success

NEW YORK (AP)—While she’s excited her ballad “Just Give Me a Reason” is nominated for the song of the year Grammy, Pink says she believes her husband deserves some credit for its success.

The track, which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three weeks, is about holding on to a troubled relationship.

“It means everything because it’s a conversation between lovers fighting the good fight and that’s been our life,” Pink said in an interview Tuesday, standing next to her motorcycle racer husband, Carey Hart. “Our family is everything to us.”

The 34-year-old often details their rocky relationship in her music.

“At the end of the day I crawl

onto his lap and complain, so if someone wants to award me for that, they should give him the award,” she said.

Pink was in great spirits Tuesday in New York City, where Billboard named the pop star its woman of the year.

“It’s been a long road,” she said. “It’s been a roller coaster and I’m on board for the rises and the falls of it all.”

Pink’s successful year includes a top-grossing international tour and awards, an MTV Video Music Award among them. “The Truth About Love,” her sixth album released last year, has sold 1.8 million units.

“Just Give Me a Reason,” which has sold 4 million tracks and features Nate Ruess of fun., is also nominated for best pop duo/group performance at the

Jan. 26 Grammy Awards.

Pink, who has won four Grammys, said being up for the coveted song of the year is unreal.

“That’s a new thing for me,” she said. “It’s a pinch-me moment. I’m afraid to cross the street.”

Her hit will battle anthems from Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Lorde and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. But at the Billboard event, camaraderie was key: Pink congratulated R&B singer Janelle Monae, who was honored as music’s rising star, while sister duo Tegan and Sara and Scottish band Chvrches performed. Debbie Harry, Kimberly Perry of the Band Perry, Andy Cohen, Matt Lauer and Melanie Fiona attended the event.

Pink’s “The Truth About Love Tour” wraps Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.

Drew Barrymore is busy juggling work and family

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Drew Barrymore isn’t exactly feeling the pregnancy glow.

“I feel so lucky to make healthy kids that I will never complain about anything because I just know how lucky I am,” the 38-year-old actress said at a recent event for her beauty brand, Flower. “But I definitely don’t feel superhot. I feel more like an Oompa Loompa.”

Barrymore and her husband, Will Kopelman, are expecting their second child. Their daughter, Olive, is 14 months old.

Her top pregnancy style tips include “a really tight bra and a really loose blouse,” great lipstick and a supportive partner.

“He’s always so complimentary,” she said of Kopelman, an art consultant. “He’s always very encouraging when I get myself ready. He always makes me feel really good about it.”

Barrymore has taken a break



In this Sept. 19, 2013 file photo, actress Drew Barrymore attends the New York City Ballet 2013 Fall gala at Lincoln Center, in New York.

from the big screen to focus on motherhood and various business ventures, which include Barrymore Wines; her production company, Flower Films; a new photography book, “Find It in Everything”; and her beauty

brand for Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

“I have a very male side of me that just loves business. I love producing. I love the rules. I love how to achieve getting financing for things, you know, staying within budget, on time, going into boardrooms and like fighting the good fight for things I really like,” she said. “But I’m at a stage in my life where I really appreciate the womanly creativity more than ever. Being a mom and making babies and thinking about what women want and what they need, what they deserve. So it fulfills that creative, sensitive side as well. So it’s a perfect business for me to be in, and I get to go home at night and be with my family, which is everything.”

Juggling a busy career with a growing family isn’t easy, but the self-proclaimed overachiever said work has been her “savior.”

make a fine film.

“Saving Mr. Banks” picks up the story in 1961, when the London-based Travers finally agreed to a two-week visit to Los Angeles to meet with Disney and his creative team. Before signing over the film rights, Travers wanted to see Disney’s treatment of her source material, and quickly proved a brutal critic and difficult collaborator—shredding key decisions about the film adaptation, including casting.

not (see it). I had a speaking engagement and I couldn’t. But my kids did record it. I’ll get around to it.”

She attended the U.S. premiere Monday night of “Saving Mr. Banks,” which depicts the battle between P.L. Travers, author of the “Mary Poppins” novels, and Walt Disney, who worked for decades to persuade the writer that the “Poppins” tales would



Andrews

Julie Andrews missed NBC’s live ‘Sound of Music’

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—More than 18 million television viewers watched Carrie Underwood perform the role of Maria last week in NBC’s “The Sound of Music Live!”

But Julie Andrews wasn’t among them.

Andrews, who starred in the 1965 Oscar-winning film adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic, explained, “Alas, I did

Common sense and courtesy keep bicyclists safe on the road

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: As the education director of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, I work hard to encourage safe and courteous cycling for everyday transportation in Northern California. There are a number of points I would like to address to “Caring Reader,” Sacramento, Calif.” (Sept. 13).

“Caring” described seeing bicyclists run stop signs, not wear protective gear, texting/talking on cellphones, and suggested a greater enforcement of the law. Rolling through stop signs is, indeed, just as illegal as it is while driving a vehicle, except in Idaho where cyclists may treat stop signs as yields. I encourage all cyclists and drivers to come to a complete stop at signs and signals, even when turning right, and especially when pedestrians are present.

Talking or texting on a cellphone while biking isn’t currently illegal in the state of California. I feel that using cellphones while biking is an unsafe practice, and I encourage cyclists (or drivers) to simply pull over before making or taking a call.

Helmets are required gear only for bicyclists under the age of 18 in California. As an adult, I choose to wear one when I’m biking. However, it is not illegal for an adult to bike without a helmet.

You said in your response that people who cycle at night should avoid wearing dark clothes to increase their visibility, but clothes color alone has been shown to have little or no effect on visibility in dark conditions. During low-light times of day like dawn or dusk, wearing bright or fluorescent clothes is a good strategy, but at night bicyclists should rely on lights and reflectors to be seen.

The law in California stipulates that bicyclists must have a white headlight, a red rear reflector and yellow or white reflectors on their wheels or spokes as well as on their pedals, shoes or ankles. However, I also recommend adding to these required items: a red rear light, and additional lights and reflectors at the front, rear and sides of the bike, or on one’s clothing or helmet. Highlighting one’s silhouette with lights and reflectors, and applying them to moving parts of one’s bike or body, will increase visibility substantially after dark.

Abby, thanks for your attention to these issues.

ROBERT PRINZ, OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR MR. PRINZ: You’re welcome. And thank you for kindly sharing your expertise with my readers.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my 40-year-old stepson, “Rod,” gave his father a beautiful robe for Christmas. The problem is, we had given the robe to Rod for Christmas several years ago. I didn’t say anything at the time, but, of course, I recognized it because I was the one who had bought it for him.

Should I have said anything? Or was I right to have played dumb (which is what I did)?

Rod has “saved” other presents we have given him and re-gifted them to us years later. This man has a high-paying job and isn’t hurting for money. I think what he’s doing is insulting. I have suggested not exchanging gifts, but he ignores me. What can I do about this in the future?

“RECYCLEE” IN THE SOUTH

DEAR “RECYCLEE”: Rod may have forgotten that he got the robe from you. As I see it, you have two choices. You can be offended, or you can turn it into a joke. For this Christmas, give him the robe back.

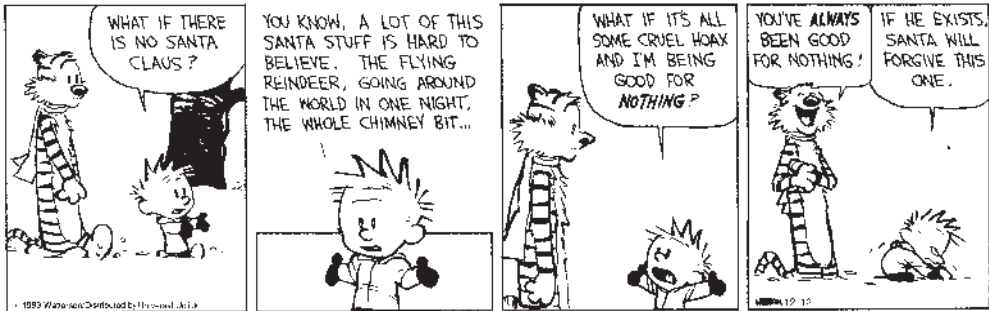
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



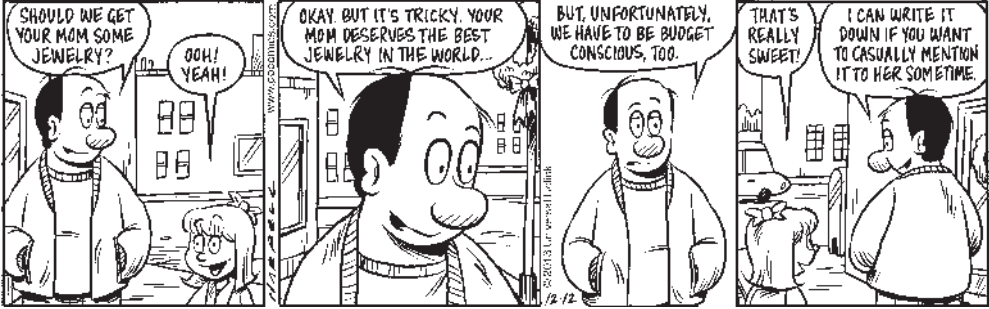
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



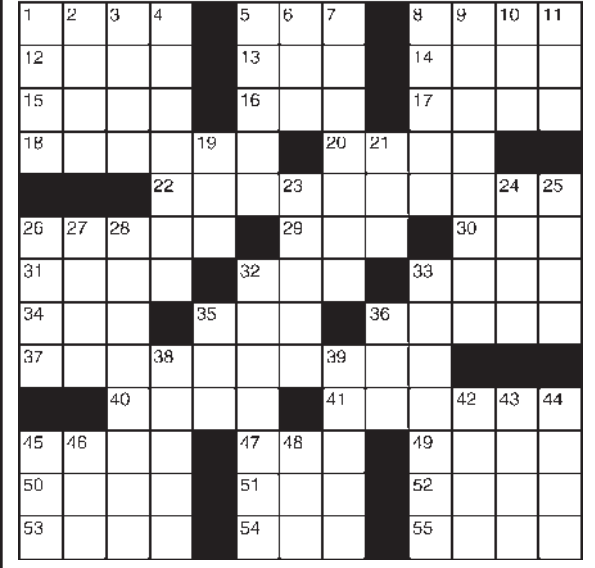
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Body of the powder
 - 5 Priestly garment
 - 8 Model Heidi
 - 12 A little of everything
 - 13 Chart format
 - 14 Follow a nature trail
 - 15 Lass
 - 16 Suitable
 - 17 Scored 100 on
 - 18 Less fresh
 - 20 Stirred
 - 22 Readily available
 - 26 Urticaria
 - 29 Longing
 - 30 The Red or the Black
 - 31 Raw minerals
 - 32 Chaps
 - 33 "The Prime of Miss — Brodie"
 - 34 — de deux
- DOWN**
- 1 Clothing
 - 2 Settled down
 - 3 Old
 - 4 Lassie et al.
 - 5 In two places
 - 6 Back talk
 - 7 Connecting
 - 8 Uniform shade
 - 9 Fran-chise
 - 10 Guitar's cousin
 - 11 Club —
 - 19 Type measures
 - 21 Possess
 - 23 Zoo
 - 24 Para-phernalia
 - 25 Without
 - 26 Arizona tribe
 - 27 Persia, now
 - 28 Cere-monial robe
 - 32 Under-brush
 - 33 Pope Francis, et al.
 - 35 Lustrous black
 - 36 Without delay, initially
 - 38 Pal from the 'hood
 - 39 Ward off
 - 42 Thought
 - 43 Yuletide tune
 - 44 Differ-ently
 - 45 Mischie-vous tyke
 - 46 — chi
 - 48 Scale member

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Mayim Bialik, 38; Madchen Amick, 43; Jennifer Connelly, 43; Dionne Warwick, 73.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on home and what needs to be done to make your life easier, more comfortable and conducive to reaching your goals. Helping others will make you feel good and bring you in contact with people who have something to offer you. Broaden your outlook and you will see possibilities you never knew existed. Make the effort. Your numbers are 4, 11, 25, 27, 35, 41, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay alert and be ready to make last-minute changes if necessary. Good fortune will be yours if you are astute, articulate and on top of your game. Keep your spending low and your intake high. Follow your head, not your heart. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get started early and don't stop until you have completed everything on your work list. A chance to look for something that will boost your confidence or update your look will bring about a welcome surprise. Love is in the stars. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go where the action is and welcome any challenge that comes your way. Your persistence and bravado will help you connect with people who can change your future. The signal you send should be accurate and intentional. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't leave work unfinished. Consistency will help secure your position. Now is not the time to slow down, but instead is the moment of truth

as to what you have and are willing to offer. Romance will lead to an enchanting evening. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give in or give up. Spend what you can afford, nothing more. Take a break from people pressuring you or asking for too much. Good friends and a little entertainment will help turn a demanding day into an eventful evening. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and about. You will find great bargains if you shop and interesting information if you research or take part in industry events. Romance is on the rise. Socializing with people who share commonalities will lead to good times. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel plans or engaging in social events will give you a chance to interact with people from unique backgrounds. Avoid a feud by staying out of a debate that develops between peers or friends. Physical activity will bring about positive changes. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Fix up your place. Comfort and practicality will make you feel at home and encourage you to entertain more. Your relationship with friends, relatives and neighbors will improve if you offer hospitality and cheer. Love is on the rise. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make a quick decision and a fast move. Idle time will be what leads to trouble. Figure out your strategy and don't waste time pursuing your goal. A change at home or work appears to be beneficial. Talks will be successful. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Good times are in order. Hospitality will show your heart is in the right place. Don't feel you have to make a change because of what others do. Be true to yourself and you will not be lead astray. Protect what's yours. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let money slip through your fingers. Impulse purchases will lead to the poor-house. Concentrate on ways you can put your talents and skills to better use and earn more in return. Set up a budget and stick to it. ****

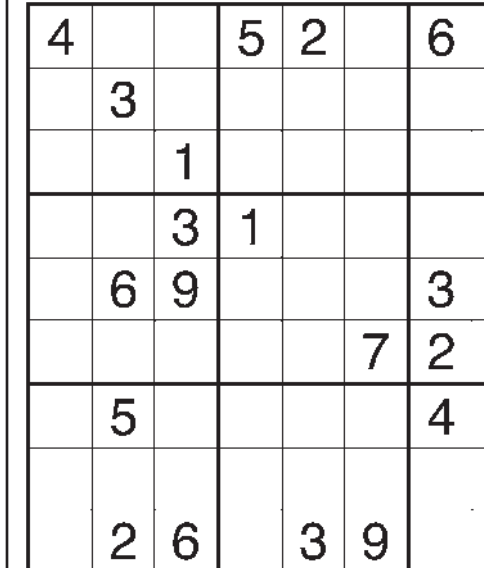
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Act on instinct and judge others by how consistent and reliable they are. You can expand your plans and explore new endeavors, but you are best not to get involved in a joint venture. Don't mix business with pleasure. ***

Birthday Baby: You are unique, unpredictable and goal-oriented. You are aggressive and passionate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

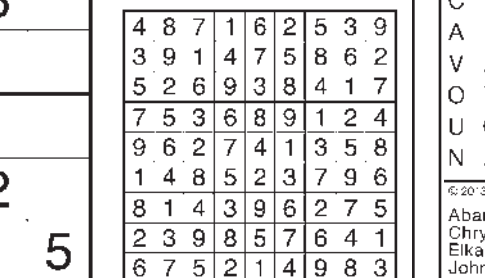
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/12 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE FIAT GROUP Solution: 11 letters



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SAN VICENTE ESTATE – (1) General Maintenance. 3-5 years experience. Valid Driver's License. Police clearance required. Email resume to cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

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Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment such as: Management of financial books, rental client agreement, building maintenance such as answering tenants' complaints & resolve problems. Confer with Manager to review financial statements, activity reports & other performance data to determine areas needing costs reduction & improvement. Allocate funds; authorize expenditures necessary for building maintenance. Delegate authority & assign responsibilities to designate personnel for building maintenance, be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Other related duties as Assistant Manager.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

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CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

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Interested Applicants must apply in person at Marianas Eye Institute
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Send resume to PMB 605 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
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 - Conduct routine facility inspections. Maintain housekeeping, conduct maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions. Administratively record and report conditions using Mobil's processes and systems. Apply basic computer programs such as Microsoft Word & Microsoft Excel
 - Perform safe marine terminal operations: shore to ship and ship to shore transfers of bulk petroleum products; tank truck loading, pipeline transfers and product quality testing.
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 - Perform Oil loss monitoring duties.
 - Interface with third party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers, and Mobil global network system.
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- Qualifications:**
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field.
 - Must be familiar with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing.
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 - Good Interpersonal skills.
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- Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:**
- Experience in marine terminal operations.
 - Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage.
 - Previous experience in Petroleum Industry.

If you are interested in and meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before December 30, 2013.

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Maria Kemp, Field Operations Manager-CNMI
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(Fax) 670 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Pacers rally in 2nd half to beat Heat, 90-84



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Roy Hibbert threw all the inside body jabs Tuesday night. Paul George finished it off with the knockout blow.

Together, the Pacers' devastating one-two scoring punch did it again to the champs.

Hibbert finished with 24 points, George made two big 3-pointers during a 15-point second half scoring spree and Indiana rallied from a seven-point halftime deficit to take Round 1 against Miami 90-84.

"It was fun, a real intense game," George said. "Both teams were playing at a high level. You could see an urgency to win this game tonight."

While Indiana extended its franchise-record home start to a perfect 10-0 and took a three-game advantage over Miami in the early chase for home-court advantage, this was no ordinary regular season game.

During pregame media availability, Indiana's Lance Stephenson said this game felt like a championship matchup. Two of Miami's big three, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, tried to downplay that sort of talk by explaining this was not a win or go home night.

The hometown fans didn't care what the Heat thought. They were already in postseason form, booing loudly at the officials, chanting "He's a flopper" on some contestable foul calls and eventually serenading Miami players with those familiar chants of "Beat the Heat."

But the Pacers (19-3) also understood this was only be the start of a season-long quest that could pit the two best teams in the East in the conference finals for a second straight year.

First, there's the rematch in Miami on Dec. 18. They won't meet again until March 26 in Indy, then head back to Miami on April 11 before what most expect to be a third straight meeting in the playoffs. If those games have as much intrigue and pizzazz as Tuesday night's showdown, they may be the most compelling all season.

And the Pacers can't wait to show how much they can improve—even on a win over the two-time champs and four-time MVP LeBron James.

"It's just one game," Hibbert said. "We're going to learn from it. It's a learning experience. It's still early in the season. We have a lot more work to do."

To the average fan, it looked a lot like last season's playoff series, which Miami won in seven games.

Hibbert dominated the middle, scoring nine of Indiana's first 11 points and making a season-high 10 baskets—most from point-blank range—despite playing in the second half with cotton in his nose. David West added 17 points, nine rebounds and four assists including a left-



Indiana Pacers forward Paul George, center, is trapped by Miami Heat forward LeBron James, right, and guard Mario Chalmers in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013.

handed 4-foot runner that gave Indiana an 88-81 lead with 38.9 seconds to go.

James' defense and Miami's physical double-teams frustrated George most of the night, but when George finally got free late, he made three big 3-pointers to help the Pacers pull away. George, the NBA's No. 4 scorer, finished with 17 points, three rebounds and four assists.

"I knew it was going to be a night when I was going to explode offensively," George said. "I knew I had to move the ball and share it."

Chasing George all night apparently took a toll on James and the Heat (16-6).

While James, the league's No. 2 scorer did get 17 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, he was just 3 of 11 from the field with nine points over the final 36 minutes—three quarters when Miami failed to top the 20-point mark and had five turnovers. Wade also finished with 17 points, while Bosh added 12.

It was Miami's third loss in five games.

"I thought we brought it tonight," James said. "We know they're a very good defensive team. I thought they hit some tough shots and they attacked the rim real well but even though they had us down by 10 rebounds, I thought we rebounded well and we battled."

Aside from the slow start, the Pacers couldn't have produced a better script.

After Miami took a 13-point lead midway through the second quarter, Indiana charged back to get within 47-40 at halftime.

Indiana then opened the third quarter with back-to-back baskets to close the deficit to four. The Pacers finally tied it at 55 on George Hill's 3 with 8:15 to go in the third, and Hibbert gave the Pacers' their first lead, 58-57, on a three-point play 2 minutes later. George helped keep the Heat at arm's length after finally making his first basket with 3:51 left in the third, and Miami never tied the score or regained the lead.

"Anytime you get into this kind of a slugfest with them, where you're down six to eight points, it feels like it's a 20-point lead," Bosh said. "We know they're a good team. We know what their goals are, we know what our goals are, we want to keep building to be a complete team for the spring."

Suns 114, Lakers 108

In Los Angeles, Goran Dragic scored 31 points and Phoenix kept Los Angeles winless with Kobe Bryant back in the lineup.

Bryant led the Lakers with 20 points while playing 29 mostly sharp minutes in his second game back from a nearly eight-month absence with a torn Achilles tendon. He led a fourth-quarter rally by the Lakers, who got within four points with 3 minutes left before Phoenix held on for its first three-game

winning streak of the season.

Marcus Morris scored 22 points and Eric Bledsoe had 18 points and nine assists for the surprising Suns, who never trailed after the opening minutes. Phoenix held off the Lakers with superb fourth-quarter play from both Morris brothers. Markieff Morris added 15 points.

Spurs 116, Raptors 103

In Toronto, Manu Ginobili scored 16 points, Tony Parker had 15 and San Antonio beat Toronto for the sixth straight time.

Tim Duncan scored 14 points and Aron Baynes had a career-best 14 as the Spurs overcame a 14-point first quarter deficit to improve to 26-9 all-time against Toronto.

San Antonio has won three of six since its 11-game winning streak was halted with a loss at Oklahoma City on Nov. 27.

Danny Green had 14 points for the Spurs, while Marco Belinelli had 12 and Patty Mills 11.

DeMar DeRozan scored 19 points and Amir Johnson had 19 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Nets 104, Celtics 96

In New York, Deron Williams scored a season-high 25 points in his return to the lineup, Brook Lopez added 24, and Brooklyn beat Boston in the first matchup for Paul Pierce and Kevin Gar-

nett against their former team.

Garnett had 11 points, just his third time in double figures for the Nets this season, and grabbed nine rebounds. Pierce finished with four points and seven rebounds in his first appearance off the bench in six years after making a quick recovery from a broken right hand.

Avery Bradley scored 22 points and Jeff Green had 19 for the Celtics, who have been competitive after trading away two of their most important players from their 2008 NBA championship team. Boston had a three-game winning streak snapped and its Atlantic Division-leading record fell to 10-13 record.

Cavaliers 109, Knicks 94

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 37 points and Jarrett Jack added 17 points, leading Cleveland past sinking New York.

Irving added 11 assists. The All-Star point guard had 12 points in the third quarter, when the Cavs outscored the defenseless Knicks 33-20 and pulled away. Tristan Thompson added 12 points and nine rebounds as Cleveland won its fourth straight at home.

New York, coming off an embarrassing 41-point loss at home to Boston, dropped to 5-15 and made coach Mike Woodson's future even more uncertain.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 and Amare Stoudemire 15 for the Knicks, who erased an early

18-point deficit, gave it all back, fell behind by 19 and lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

Timberwolves 121, Pistons 94

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Kevin Love had 26 points and 16 rebounds to lead Minnesota.

Love only played 30 minutes, sitting out the fourth quarter with the big lead. Detroit was unable to stop him inside, outside or on the break. Several of his seven assists came on his trademark 70-foot outlet passes off missed shots.

Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin added 18 points each for Minnesota, which finished with six players in double figures.

Brandon Jennings had 20 points for Detroit, but Greg Monroe and Andre Drummond were held to a combined total of 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The Pistons have relied heavily on their frontcourt this season, but didn't have the advantage in that matchup against Minnesota.

Thunder 101, Hawks 92

In Atlanta, Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Oklahoma City won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Shelvin Mack scored 17 points off the bench to lead an Atlanta comeback but finally cooled off at the end.

Coming off an impressive 118-94 home victory over Indiana, the Thunder had more trouble on the road against the Hawks. But the result was the same: another Oklahoma City victory, despite a tough night for Russell Westbrook. He was held to 14 points on 6-of-21 shooting, though he did sink an impressive reverse layup with 1:41 remaining to help finish off Atlanta.

Durant made 9 of 21 from the field and 11 of 15 free throws.

Paul Millsap led the Hawks with 23 points.

Bucks 78, Bulls 74

In Chicago, John Henson had 25 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots, and Milwaukee beat Chicago in a matchup of injury-riddled teams trying to break out of a slump.

Brandon Knight added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee, which had dropped three of four. O.J. Mayo was just 2 for 12 from the field, but had seven assists and made a couple of big plays in the fourth quarter.

Chicago used only eight players after Joakim Noah was sidelined by a bruised right thigh. Carlos Boozer was the only starter in the lineup from the season opener at Miami.

Mike Dunleavy scored 18 of his 24 points in the second quarter, but the Bulls struggled on offense in the latter part of their fourth loss in five games. Boozer finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Granderson tweaks Yanks; 3-team trade discussed



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.
(AP)—With the winter meetings

off to a slow start, Curtis Granderson injected some playfully provocative words into New York's baseball rivalry.

Granderson was introduced by the Mets on Tuesday after completing a \$60 million, four-year contract, a rare direct switch from the Yankees to their rival in Queens.

"A lot of the people I've met in New York have always said true New Yorkers are Mets' fans," he said at a news conference. "So I'm excited to get a chance to see them all out there."

On the second day of the four-day swap session, there was talk of a possible three-team trade among Anaheim, Arizona and White Sox that would send Mark Trumbo to the Diamondbacks, Hector Santiago to the Angels and Adam Eaton to Chicago.

Free agent outfielder Rajai Davis and the Detroit Tigers were closing in on an agreement for a two-year contract worth \$9 million to \$10 million, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because an agreement has not been completed and the player is to have a physical.

Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox made the biggest news Monday, an indication of the timeout in the trade-and-signings market. The trio of retired managers was elected to the Hall of Fame on Monday in a unanimous vote by the expansion era committee. The other big news was the retirement of two-time Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay after 16 seasons at age 36.

But after all the deals last week, there were almost no new transactions.

David Price still was being dangled on the trade market by the Tampa Bay Rays. Shin-Soo Choo and Nelson Cruz could be signed for a large pile of cash.

"Maybe there's a little bit of calm after the storm, and the next storm is a few days away," Boston Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said. "We'll see. Something will happen while everyone's here, but maybe it's a little lower volume than some other years just because so much has already happened."

Two years from free agency, Price is



New York Mets newest outfielder Curtis Granderson talks on the phone after a news conference introducing him at baseball's winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013. AP

the most high-profile player mentioned in trade talks this week. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner had a salary of \$10,112,500 this year, nearly one-sixth the payroll of the attendance-challenged Rays.

"This is how we have to operate within our little world," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "So if it were to happen, it's one of those that's almost the word 'devastating' in a sense, but we have to recover from those kind of moments, if it does actually occur."

Price would join James Shields, Matt Garza, Carl Crawford and B.J. Upton among players who left the Rays, whose average home attendance of 18,646 was the lowest in the major leagues.

Few fans means tight cash flow.

"Just think if you could have kept all those guys for several years and keep them together for maybe 15 years like

the Yankees did starting in 1995, '96 to present time," said Maddon, who's been touring the United States in an RV.

"I do commit myself to that thought on occasion, but the reality is that's not the way it is. So I don't lament that. I'm really happy for the guys that once they've done well here, they go somewhere else and do well and make good money for themselves and their family," he said.

Baseball's high rollers have made many of their moves already.

The Yankees, stung by missing the playoffs for only the second time in 19 years, spent \$307 million to add Jacoby Ellsbury, Brian McCann, Carlos Beltran and Kelly Johnson and to retain Hiroki Kuroda and Brendan Ryan. They didn't seem very concerned that Robinson Cano left for a still-unfinished deal with Seattle said to be worth \$240 million over 10 years.

After winning its third World Series title in 10 seasons, Boston watched Ellsbury head to its Bronx rival. The Red Sox allowed catcher Jarrod Saltamacchia to leave for a \$21 million contract with Miami and replaced him with A.J. Pierzynski, who agreed to an \$8.25 million, one-year deal.

Curtis Granderson, Joe Nathan, Jhonny Peralta and Tim Hudson also have signed with new clubs, and Prince Fielder, Ian Kinsler, Doug Fister, Jim Johnson, David Freese and Heath Bell were traded. The pace of turnover has been a bit dizzying.

"It's been a quicker-moving offseason certainly than I think anyone expected. The movement last week was unlike most years," Cherington said. "I would imagine there's probably a lot of trade talk this week, because a good chunk of the free agents are off the board."

Miami introduced Saltamacchia during a news conference just after a person familiar with the negotiations said the Marlins had agreed to a \$7.75 million, two-year contract with first baseman Garrett Jones. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been completed and Jones had yet to take his physical.

That means Miami could look to deal first baseman Logan Morrison, who has slumped during consecutive injury-interrupted seasons. Toronto slugger Jose Bautista also could be available.

"I know some teams have asked about him," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He's sitting in the center of our lineup and still one of the best hitters in baseball. You can understand why teams are asking about him. But he's still here right now, and we're glad to have him."

Patriots put TE Gronkowski on IR with knee injury



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
(AP)—The New England Patriots must get used to playing without Rob Gronkowski again.

The star tight end who missed the first six games while recovering from surgeries is done for the season after being placed on injured reserve Monday with a damaged right knee.

That experience could help the Patriots handle his absence.

"I'd like to think there's going to be some carry-over there, not only (from) the first six weeks of the season, but the entire training camp as well," coach Bill Belichick said Monday. "That's the way we practiced and played most of the year."

Gronkowski was hurt midway through the third quarter of the Patriots' 27-26 win over the Cleveland Browns on Sunday when he was hit on the knee by safety T.J. Ward after a 21-yard reception.

The Patriots were 5-1 while Gronkowski recovered from offsea-

son operations on his left forearm and back. In the next six games, he led all NFL tight ends with 37 catches and 560 yards receiving and they were 4-2. But the offense was much more productive.

Gronkowski caught touchdown passes in four consecutive games before making just two receptions for 32 yards against the Browns.

He suffered a torn ACL and damaged MCL, a person familiar with the injury said Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team did not release those details.

Cleveland coach Rob Chudzinski said Monday he didn't know whether Ward's hit on Gronkowski resulted from a reluctance to hit a player high and possibly incur a fine for helmet-first contact.

"From my vantage point, I think he was trying to get Gronkowski down on the ground," Chudzinski said. "A big guy coming at you that way is tough to get on the ground, so I don't know that it has to do with the rules other than trying to get the guy on the ground.

Certainly, we feel terrible about that (injury). He's a great player, and (we) hope that he has a speedy recovery."

The Patriots visit Miami on Sunday.

"The thing about New England is they have an excellent offensive staff, they utilize their personnel very, very well, and they adjust," Dolphins coach Joe Philbin said. "You have to have a big enough system offensively that you can incorporate different players throughout the course of the season."

The injury is just the latest to a key Patriots player. Defensive tackles Vince Wilfork and Tommy Kelly, linebacker Jerod Mayo and right tackle Sebastian Vollmer are on season-ending injured reserve. Gronkowski's injury should make it tougher for the Patriots (10-3) to hold on to the No. 2 spot in the AFC and a first-round bye. Cincinnati (9-4) is third and has beaten New England this season.

"We can't sit here and try to pretend like it's something that's easy and that we just can roll through. It's tough," special teams captain Matthew Slater

said. "When you lose guys, and guys of this caliber, it makes it hard on your football team."

The Patriots signed tight end D.J. Williams to the 53-man roster. They had released him last Wednesday after signing him as a free agent on Nov. 27. Williams played sparingly in a 34-31 win over Houston.

He and Matthew Mulligan are the Patriots' only healthy tight ends. Michael Hoomanawanui missed the past three games with a knee injury.

"As far as (getting) more reps here or there, you just don't know," Mulligan said. "It's all game plan and we'll see what happens."

Mulligan has just 16 receptions in five seasons. Gronkowski set an NFL record for tight ends with 18 touchdowns in 2011.

"Unfortunately, we've had to take the field without him in the past and we've had to figure out ways to still be productive," Slater said. "We're going to have to do that again."

Study: Hits to head still prevalent in NFL

An Associated Press review of penalties through the first 11 weeks of the NFL season finds that an average of nearly once a game, a player absorbs an illegal blow to the head or neck that could put his career at risk.

Over the past four years, the NFL has toughened the rules in an attempt to prevent such blows. Yet the AP breakdown found those hits are still prevalent.

Of the 491 major infractions charted over the first 162 games of the season, the AP identified 156 involving contact with the head and neck - an average of .962 per game. Of those, 93 were for hits to the head. Quarterbacks and receivers shared the largest brunt of those hits, with the quarterbacks taking 40 and receivers taking 38. (AP)

Pacquiao deals with more US taxes in April

By PERCY D. DELLA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SACRAMENTO, California—Expect Manny Pacquiao to avoid fiscal landmines when he returns to fight in the United States in April of next year.

Currently locked in a tax dispute with the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Manila, Pacquiao will surely train at the Wild Card Gym of his long-time trainer Freddie Roach in Hollywood, California.

But the eight-division world champion, still a marquee name in boxing after his easy victory over Brandon Rios in Macau last month, will never fight his next opponent—either Timothy Bradley or Juan Manuel Marquez—in the Golden State.

“I am no tax attorney,” my daughter Teresa Paula, a lawyer, said at dinner last night. “But my colleagues tell me promoters of mega fighters like Pacquiao avoid California because of its mega-high income taxes.”

No wonder Bob Arum, Pacquiao’s promoter has never booked his cash cow in California although the state is home to huge Filipino and Mexican communities, boxing’s traditional hotbeds of support.

Instead, Arum always has the smarts to schedule the fighting congressman’s bouts in Texas, the Lone Star State and mostly in boxing’s hub,



In this photo released by Team Pacquiao, Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao shows reporters U.S. Internal Revenue Forms which he claims to have filed in 2008 and 2009, in General Santos, southern Philippines Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013.

Las Vegas in the Silver State of Nevada to maximize his and his boxer’s after-fight profits.

Nevada has no personal income tax. Nevertheless, Pacquiao still pays a king’s ransom when he boxes in Vegas.

That’s because as a foreign athlete, he still has to face special withholding rules from the Internal Revenue Service on income earned in the United States.

So if Pacquiao, scheduled

by Arum to fight in Vegas next year makes \$25 million, he could end up earning \$15 million after taxes, based on calculations under a progressive tax system, says a tax expert writing for a boxing blog.



Should he fight either Bradley or Marquez in California, Pacquiao’s take, after Uncle Sam takes a big bite of his purse, will be considerably less.

A tax attorney writing in Forbes Magazine said that’s

SBC

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beating Panapa Peteru and Park in the men’s BC doubles, 21-15, 21-14. SBC went on to nail three more victories in the men’s doubles division with Sam Jones and Son prevailing against Peteru and Cai in the A

class, 21-16, 21-12, Peng and Ortega downing Russel and Celso Agui in the B class, 21-12, 21-14, and Young Sang and Hancheol Yu slipping past Agui and A.J. Ortega, 21-16, 19-21, 21-16.

In the two remaining women’s doubles matches, SBC won with Francisco and Ortega

teaming up anew and this time topping Gigi Zapanta and Judy Mendieta in the BC class, 21-11, 21-6, and Rowena Sison and partner sweeping Lani Santos and Roxe Lazaro, 21-10, 21-15.

In the first mixed doubles match between SBC and Taga, Oh Im Bog and M. Hye de-

feated Merlie Tolentino and Russel in the B class, 21-12, 21-9, while Glenn Bluutjens and Coe Linn triumphed over Shirley Kim and A.J. Ortega in the A class, 21-12, 21-18. SBC went on to complete the mixed doubles sweep with Tina Lee and partner dominating Emily Vargas and Cai, 21-14, 21-13.

In other results last weekend, Shirley’s defeated Golden Racquets, 20-10, to stay in contention for the second and last finals ticket. Shirley’s played the continuation of its game against Golden Racquets and prevailed in four of the last five matches to double up the latter.

THEA

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Rastguiy in the U18 doubles title game. Both championship matches were played in the opening week of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Minor went on to return for the second and final week of the competition and bagged her third title after prevailing against Lo-

pez, anew in the women’s open singles finale. In the mixed open doubles, the Saipan Southern student partnered with coach Luke Beling and the duo topped the round-robin tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan after winning over Michella Phan and Au-Yeung and Carol Lee and Lauro Lim.

Over at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Mc-

Cullough-Stearns and his Geckos extended their reign in the MISO league after defeating perennial rival Grace Christian Academy in the finals. McCullough-Stearns’ strong spikes were too much to handle for the Eagles, as SIS escaped with a 27-25, 25-22 victory right in Game 1 of the finals. Earlier in the semis, McCullough-Stearns towed SIS to a 32-20, 22-25, 15-8 victory

to earn a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals and also lifted the Geckos to an impressive 11-1 record in the regular season to take the pennant.

With McCullough-Stearns and Minor getting the November honors, they are now qualified for the coveted 2013 NMAA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year plum, which will be handed out in February

next year.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will have to wait for the December award-ees before finalizing the candidates for the annual award. All monthly winners are eligible for the prestigious plum, but NMAA-member federation can also nominate athletes who did not make it to the winners list this season.

SENDIN

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15-year-old Jerome Diyco won the division after breaking the four-hour barrier with his 3:36:14. China’s Yifei Jiang was far behind at second place after clocking in at 4:25:15, while Saipan’s Gerald Rangamar took third place after recording 4:32:15.

Yifei’s compatriot We Wang nailed top honors in the 26 to 35 age group after crossing the finish line at the 3:39:38 mark. Saipan’s Edwin Morales timed

in at 3:53:21 to place second and beat third finisher Tobias Theisen of Guam (4:06:41).

In the 36 to 45 age group, Peter Prestley prevailed over Guam’s Rodo Benfield and fellow Saipan biker Brad Ruszala. Prestley submitted 3:33:46 for a nearly 22-minute lead against Benfield, who posted 3:54:49, while Ruszala missed the four-hour cut after logging 4:33:14.

In the 46 to 55 age group, there was a close fight between Guam’s Mark Walters and Saipan’s Tyce Mister with the former tallying 3:26:00 to edge

the latter’s 3:16:14. Guam’s Arthur Guerrero rounded out the Top 3 after checking in at 3:31:09.

The over 56 age group category had Russia’s Gennady Ionin finishing ahead of two Saipan bikers. Ionin clocked in at 3:38:52 to beat Willy Barbo and Manny Sitchon, who registered 3:42:02 and 4:12:25, respectively. In the manatee male, Theron Holloway was the lone entry and made the four-hour cut with his 3:29:32.

In the MTB division, the manatee top honors went to

Floro Derekes of Saipan after logging 4:41:51, while another Saipan biker Rey Tentia was awarded first place in the over 56 age group after posting 4:40:30. Sunny Loma also gained first place in the 26 to 35 division after recording 4:39:20.

In the youngest age group (14 to 24), Wynn Brillo won over Donivan Mendiola, as the former completed the 100-kilometer race in 4:04:16 against the latter’s 6:11:05. In the 36 to 45 age group, Samson Tan clocked in at 4:05:01 to finish ahead of Ferdinand Ramos and Jay Diy-

co, who timed in at 4:11:00 and 4:14:37, respectively.

In the 46 to 55 age group, no more than two minutes separated the Top 3 finishers. George De Guzman made it to the finish line at the 3:51:12 mark to beat Noel Altamirano (3:52:44), while Joel Felizario completed the Top 3 after recording 3:53:51.

In the women’s division, Guam’s Kristen Ullman tallied 4:37:12 to finish ahead of Saipan’s Susan Marchitti (4:52:11) and fellow Guam biker Blanda Camacho (6:16:46).

because of California’s high income tax rates for people earning \$1 million and above. Besides, the state’s tax collectors will get a piece of everything related to a Pacquiao fight, including merchandise sales, pay per view shares and money earned from endorsements.

Advertisement:Replay Ad

Pacquiao’s bank assets have been frozen by the Philippine government until he proves that he paid taxes in 2008-2009 in the US following his victories against Ricky Hatton and Oscar de la Hoya.

A treaty between the US and PH prevents double taxation. Unless the issue is clarified though, he owes the BIR 2.2 billion pesos in back taxes as of July.

Pacquiao’s fans here tend to commiserate with their idol when it comes to his tax woes.

“If he hasn’t paid the taxes in the US for the bouts in question, Pacquiao will be hounded by the IRS when he returns to the US,” said Joe Jimeno, a Sacramento tax preparer.

“You know the drill, pay the IRS right now or pay the piper later,” said Danny Vivar, a Baguio attorney who immigrated to California in the early ’80s.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	13	.435	—
Toronto	7	13	.350	1½
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	2
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	2½
New York	5	15	.250	3½

Southeast Division

Miami	16	6	.727	—
Atlanta	11	11	.500	5
Charlotte	10	11	.476	5½
Washington	9	11	.450	6
Orlando	6	15	.286	9½

Central Division

Indiana	19	3	.864	—
Detroit	10	12	.455	9
Chicago	8	11	.421	9½
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Milwaukee	5	16	.238	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	16	4	.800	—
Houston	15	7	.682	2
Dallas	13	9	.591	4
Memphis	10	10	.500	6
New Orleans	9	10	.474	6½

Northwest Division

Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	16	4	.800	1
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Minnesota	10	11	.476	7½
Utah	4	19	.174	14½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	14	8	.636	—
Phoenix	12	9	.571	1½
Golden State	12	10	.545	2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	3½
Sacramento	6	13	.316	6½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marianas Cup: CNMI U12 vs Guam U12

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMI U12 National Team's Clayton Izuka signals to his teammates during the second half of their game against Guam in the 2013 Marianas Football Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



A Guam player talks to goalie Jeremy Luke Collado after the latter committed an error in the early minutes of the first half.



Guam goalie Jeremy Luke Collado goes for a catch, while his teammates attempts a header after a CNMI corner kick.



CNMI captain Sunjoon Tenorio makes a header.



CNMI and Guam players engage in a foot race.



The CNMI's Joshua Abragan tries to sneak against a Guam player to steal the ball.



The CNMI's Logan Mister stops the ball using his knee.



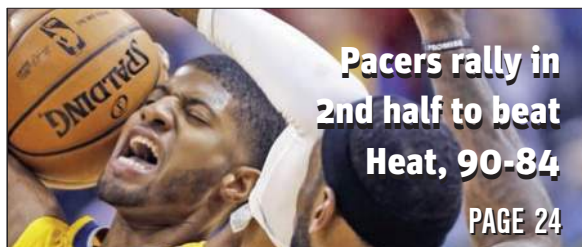
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, congratulates CNMI captain Sunjoon Tenorio, while Guam Football Association official George Lai looks on during the trophy presentation.



A CNMI defender stick to Guam players.



CNMI fans cheer on the Commonwealth players after their 4-0 win against Guam.



**Pacers rally in
2nd half to beat
Heat, 90-84**
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Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SBC earns return trip to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club notched the first finals berth in the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

SBC made it to the championship round, following a 26-4 demolition of Taga Badminton Club over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex. The two-time champion also challenged Shirley's Badminton Club last weekend and although the latter took a shaky 8-7 lead after five matches, SBC is still on top of the team standings with its 76-29 record, zeroing in on the first finals ticket.

With SBC returning to the finals, Shirley's and Community Badminton Club are left to fight for the second and last finals slot, while Golden Racquets and Taga are out of the running. Shirley's holds a 68-35 record and must gain at least 8 points at the resumption of its duel against SBC this weekend to advance to the finals. CBC,

which owns a 60-45 slate, is pressed to sweep Taga in the last five matches to take the second finals seat. CBC met Taga last week and went ahead, 12-3. The loser of the CBC-Shirley's battle for the last finals berth will play Golden Racquet in the consolation round.

Taga was eliminated early after handing nine of the 10 matches to SBC. Actually, Taga got off to a good start in its pairing against SBC last weekend with the tandem of Loida Ito and Cristy Villafor winning over Alma Ortega and Dianne Francisco in the women's B doubles, 21-18, 21-20. However, SBC foiled Taga's upset bid, sweeping the last nine matches.

Joe Ortega and Young Sang gave SBC its first win after

See SBC on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Badminton Club's Glenn Bluutjens stretches for a return during his and Nicole Malasarte's game against Shirley's Badminton Club in the Traders Insurance tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Thea, Clay named November's best



McCullough-Stearns



Minor

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Thea Minor and Saipan International School's Clay McCullough-Stearns won the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athletes of the Month awards for November.

Minor was cited for her title runs in last month's 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, while McCullough-Stearns earned the monthly plum for helping SIS rule the varsity division of the 2013-2014 MISO Boys Volleyball League.

The 17-year-old Minor won four division championships in the annual tennis tournament. She first clinched the girls U18 tiara after beating Mikayla Lopez in the finals and then teamed up with Christian Miller in downing Lopez and Negaht

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Sendin, Horton rule Open division races



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan's Charlie Sendin heads down to Kagman during last Saturday's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Charlie Sendin and Guam's Derek Horton were the top amateur finishers in last Saturday's 7th Annual Hell of

Sendin posted the fastest time in the MTB division, making it at the finish line at Marianas Resort & Spa in 3:32:32, about two minutes ahead of Bob Fer-

rer (3:34:36). Joining Sendin and Ferrer in the Top 3 in the Open MTB was Enrique Suba, who clocked in at 3:50:50.

In the open road bike division, Horton checked in at the 3:05:40 to finish way ahead of China's Zhiyoung Zhen, who submitted 3:15:34. Rounding out the Top 3 was Saipan's Nap Dizon, who registered 3:20:14.

In the 14 to 25 age group, **See SENDIN on Page 26**